Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-062
Friday
2 April 1993

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-062 *2 April 1993*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Said Preparing To Administer Gaza Strip *[AL-QUDS 1 Apr]* 1
Delegates: Arab Countries To Respect Talks Boycott *[Jerusalem Radio]* 1
'Abd-al-Shafi on Deportees, Peace Talks *[AL-DUSTUR 1 Apr]* 1
Qaddumi on Damascus Meeting, Peace Process *[AKHBAR AL-USBU' 1 Apr]* 3
Territories' Closure Symbolizes Policy Failure *[AL-TALI'AH 1 Apr]* 5
PFLP-GC on Bombing of 'Civilian Targets' *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 5

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Toll in Army Barracks Attack Now 19 Dead *[Algiers Radio]* 6
Security Forces Arrest Assassination Squads *[Algiers TV]* 6
Security Surrounds Terrorists Holding Bank Hostages *[Algiers TV]* 6
Update on Bank Attack *[Algiers Radio]* 6
EC's Cheysson Expresses Solidarity With State *[Algiers Radio]* 6
Concludes Visit *[Algiers Radio]* 7
Higher State Council Receives Hamas Delegation *[Algiers Radio]* 7

Egypt

Mubarak on Efforts With Clinton, Rabin on Talks *[Cairo Radio]* 7
More on Interview *[MENA]* 8
President Comments on Terror, 'Abd-al-Rahman *[MENA]* 9
Paper on Mubarak, al-Sadat Similarities *[AL-SHA'B 23 Mar]* 9
List of Charges Against 'Abd-al-Rahman Complete *[AL-AHALI 24 Mar]* 10
Iran, Sudan, Local Terrorism Criticized *[AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I 28 Mar]* 10

Libya

Tunisian President Ben Ali Arrives for Visit 1 Apr 11
Welcomed by al-Qadhdhafi *[JANA]* 11
Makes Arrival Statement *[Tunis TV]* 11
Meets With al-Qadhdhafi, Officials *[JANA]* 11
Attends al-Qadhdhafi Banquet *[JANA]* 12
Holds Final Meeting *[JANA]* 12
Concludes Visit, Departs *[JANA]* 12
Arab Unity Against U.S. Embargo Threat Urged *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 1 Apr]* 12

Morocco

UN Representative on Sahara Arrives for Talks *[Rabat TV]* 13
Cherkaoui Talks With Russian Deputy Foreign Minister *[Rabat Radio]* 13
Minister Filali Meets With Saddam Envoy *[INA]* 13

Sudan

Al-Bashir Returns From Libya, Comments *[Omdurman Radio]* 13

Arrest of Egyptian Community Leader Denounced *[MENA]* 14
Government Statement on Rebel Factional Fighting *[SUNA]* 14
Peace Delegation Prepares for Negotiations *[Omdurman Radio]* 15

Tunisia

President Ben Ali Leaves on Visit to Tripoli *[Tunis Radio]* 15
Turkish Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit *[Tunis Radio]* 15
Holds Talks With Karoui *[Tunis TV]* 15
Economic Agreements Signed With Poland *[Warsaw PAP]* 15

IRAQ

Saddam Addresses Dhi Qar Group, Stresses National Values *[INA]* 16
Opposition Reports Pamphlets Distributed in Cities *[Voice of Iraqi People]* 16
Rebel Radio Reports Regime Attacks in Marshlands *[Voice of Iraqi People]* 16
Arab Rulers Who Trust U.S. Promises Ridiculed *[INA]* 16
Paper Reacts to Recent Velayati Statement on Ties *[INA]* 17

ISRAEL

Rabin on Gaza-First Plan, Closure of Territories *[Jerusalem Radio]* 18
EC Delegation Holds Talks With Top Officials 18
Persuasion of Palestinians Refused *[Jerusalem TV]* 18
Rabin on Self-Rule Elections *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 2 Apr]* 18
EC Commissioner Comments on Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 19
Results of Talks Detailed *[DAVAR 2 Apr]* 19
Delegation Concludes Visit *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
Netanyahu: Likud To Back Government if Policy Changed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21
Police Commissioner Sets Up New Security Forum *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21
French Weekly on Angolan Military Purchases in Israel *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 2 Apr* 21

LEBANON

PLO's 'Abd-Rabbuh Makes Statement in Beirut *[Beirut Radio]* 22
Vatican Proposes International Care of Jerusalem *[AL-SAFIR 29 Mar]* 22
Al-Hirawi Returns From UAE Visit, Comments *[VOL]* 22
Foreign Minister Buwayz Departs for Qatar, China *[Beirut Radio]* 23
U.S. 'Lack of Interest' in Lebanon, Territories *[AL-SAFIR 29 Mar]* 23
Defense Minister on Army's Internal Security Role *[London AL-HAWADITH 2 Apr]* 23
Two SLA Soldiers Killed in Security Zone 1 Apr *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 24
Islamic Resistance Claims Attack *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 24

SYRIA

Talks Held With Lebanese Government Delegation *[SANA]* 25
Interior Minister Meets With Iranian Counterpart *[SANA]* 25
Iranian Interior Minister Departs *[SANA]* 25
Vice President Talks With Vatican Official *[Damascus TV]* 25
Vatican Official Ends Visit *[Damascus Radio]* 25

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Government, Hezb-e Wahdat Sign Peace Agreement *[Tehran Radio]* 26
Agreement Detailed *[Kabul Radio]* 26
Rabbani Message on Farmers Day Broadcast *[Kabul Radio]* 26

India

Spokesman Reacts to Pakistani Remarks on Blasts *[ISI Diplomatic Information Service]* 27
Bombay Police Commissioner Says 44 Arrested for Blasts *[Delhi Radio]* 27
Visiting Mauritius President Holds Talks With Sharma *[Delhi Radio]* 28
No Radiation Hazard Reported From Atomic Plant Fire *[Delhi Radio]* 28
Deployment of UN Force During Internal Crisis Opposed *[Delhi Radio]* 28
UN Military Observer Reportedly Attacked in Mirpur *[Islamabad TV]* 28
Mourners Fired On in Srinagar; One Killed *[Delhi Radio]* 28
Indefinite Curfew in Ahmedabad Following Clashes *[Delhi Radio]* 28
'Top Militant' Killed in Amritsar *[Delhi Radio]* 28
Militants Kill 8 in Manipur; Student Group Calls Strike 29

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Views Progress, Current Issues *[Tehran Radio]* 29
UN Representative Claims U.S. Seeking 'Ransom' *[Tehran International]* 37
Opposition Figure on Regime, Terrorism *[Cairo International]* 37

Pakistan

Official Resigns; 16 Parliamentarians Support Khan *[DAWN 1 Apr]* 38
More Resignations Expected *[THE NEWS 2 Apr]* 39
Prime Minister Discusses Afghanistan, Bomb, India
[Munich SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG 1 Apr] 39
Nine Arrested Libyans Under Interrogation *[THE NEWS 2 Apr]* 40
Ishaq Khan, Sharif Greet Chinese Vice President *[Islamabad Radio]* 41
Commission Establishes Outlines of EC Cooperation *[Islamabad Radio]* 41
Minister Rejects Crossing of Line of Control *[Islamabad Radio]* 42
Paper Comments on U.S. Envoy's Remarks, Terrorism List *[THE MUSLIM 2 Apr]* 42

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Said Preparing To Administer Gaza Strip

TA0104174093 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 1 Apr 93 pp 1, 15

[By special AL-QUDS correspondent]

[Text] Cairo—The Arab parties in the peace process have conveyed to Moscow and Washington their rejection of any ideas by Yitzhaq Rabin's government that include withdrawal from the West Bank while retaining control of East Jerusalem.

In another development, Palestinian meetings are expected to be arranged within days to discuss a plan to fill a possible vacuum should Israel implement a unilateral withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

In recent consultations, the Arab parties said an Israeli withdrawal that does not include the West Bank ignores the responsibility of withdrawing from East Jerusalem and avoids implementation of Security Council and UN resolutions that force Israel to include East Jerusalem in the withdrawal. This has been particularly affirmed by Resolutions 242 and 338.

The Arab parties want to form a special committee within the framework of the regional multilateral talks to discuss the future of East Jerusalem. Reaching a final agreement on the shape of East Jerusalem's administration will ensure momentum in the peace process.

The Arab parties emphasized that all decisions and measures adopted by Israel to Judaize and unify Jerusalem are invalid. In addition, those efforts represent a crude violation of international law and charters.

Informed Palestinian sources in Cairo have said that important meetings will be held within days between Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, some key PLO officials, the delegation to the peace talks, and Palestinian elements from the occupied Gaza Strip. The meetings will formulate a complete plan to administer the Gaza Strip should Israel unilaterally withdraw.

The sources pointed out that the Palestinian plan is considered as the first executive stage of self-rule. Later this self-rule will include the occupied West Bank. Then these two areas will be integrated and constitute the nucleus of an independent Palestinian state.

Sources affirmed that Arab parties, foremost of all Egypt, will review plans to assume control of the Gaza Strip and implement development and reconstruction projects that will absorb the Palestinian people and develop its economy. The Arab parties will discuss the necessary political, security, and economic aspects of the plan.

AL-QUDS has learned according to EC pledges, there will be Palestinian-European contacts contributing to the Gaza Strip development upon its delivery from Israel.

The sources said that the Gaza Strip development plan, in which the Arab states will participate, will be discussed with PLO officials at the Arab Economic Unity Council meeting as well as at the earlier meeting of the Arab foreign ministers during the Arab League's 99th session on 18 April.

Delegates: Arab Countries To Respect Talks Boycott

TA0104155393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] The delegation of EC foreign ministers conferred at noon with the leaders of the Palestinians, and told them that the Palestinians cannot evade their share of responsibility for the deteriorating situation in the region. The head of the delegation, Danish Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Petersen, said at the end of the meeting that the deportations had created a tough situation for the Palestinian negotiating team, and noted that he had pleaded with them to return to the peace process at once because the talks are in their interest.

Our correspondent Jack Katzenell reports Faysal al-Husayni said in the meeting that the Israeli Government must help the Palestinian leaders persuade their people that there is no alternative to the peace process.

Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, said the Palestinians will not go back to the negotiations if the United States and Israel do not put forward real proposals concerning the deportees and human rights in the territories. His colleague, Sa'ib 'Urayqat, said the Palestinians may very well not report to the talks. He noted, however, that all possibilities remain open, and they may arrive in Washington on schedule, on 20 April. According to 'Urayqat, the Palestinians want to resume the peace talks, but will not do so if the Israeli prime minister does not remove the obstacles and if the United States does not oblige him to do so.

Prior to their departure for Tunis, 'Abd-al-Shafi and 'Urayqat said that the Arab countries had promised not to report to the talks if the Palestinians stay out.

'Abd-al-Shafi on Deportees, Peace Talks

JN0104102893 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 1 Apr 93 p 4

[Interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli talks, by Ahmad al-Hisban in Damascus "following the Damascus meeting" of the Arab foreign ministers; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Hisban] Let us start with the deportee issue. What is the deportees' stand toward your meetings and toward the principle of return to the negotiating table?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The deportees' stand is central and basic in these meetings. It falls within the framework of our

call for Israel to respect the international legitimacy and our insistence on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 799.

[Al-Hisban] What if Israel does not respond to this?

['Abd-al-Shafi] We will not go to the talks.

[Al-Hisban] But it is noted that the Palestinian position, as expressed by you, was firm in this regard. You linked between the return to the negotiating table with the return of the deportees. Later your position showed some retreat.

['Abd-al-Shafi] Theoretically, there is no connection between the deportee issue and negotiations. Practically, however, such connection cannot be ruled out.

[Al-Hisban] How do you explain this?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The practical link between the two is represented in Israel's failure to respect international legitimacy and the Security Council resolutions. The problem which faced us continues to face us. It lies in Israel's failure to respect Resolutions 242 and 338 on the occupied Arab territories, and 799 on the deportees. The issue, as you can see, transcends the specific framework of deportees to Israel's failure to respect the international legitimacy on whose basis we are negotiating.

Regarding the deportee issue, we continue to insist on the implementation of Resolution 799. The most important paragraph of this resolution states that deportation is a violation of human rights and international law. Hence, the basic issue on which we insist is that Israel should pledge not to deport others in the future under any circumstances whatsoever.

[Al-Hisban] If Israel makes such a pledge, what will your position be?

['Abd-al-Shafi] If Israel so pledges, we can be somehow lenient about the timing of the deportees' return by agreeing to scheduling the return of the 300 deportees within a specific period of time not exceeding the month of June. The deportees' return is guaranteed, but what is more important is that Israel should pledge not to resort to deportation once again.

[Al-Hisban] Is this not a retraction from what you have earlier announced?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Actually, there is no retraction. We believe that if we can wrench an Israeli pledge not to deport Palestinians, this will be a large gain.

[Al-Hisban] Do you expect to get such a pledge during the Palestinian delegation's visit to Washington?

['Abd-al-Shafi] As far as we know, Israel has not yet made such a pledge.

[Al-Hisban] Information leaking from the conference says Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has conveyed to you an American pledge in this regard.

['Abd-al-Shafi] We do not accept any indirect pledges; we want a direct, clear, and official Israeli pledge. We do not want the United States to act for Israel.

[Al-Hisban] Since we are discussing the U.S. role, do you think from the meetings held with the new U.S. Administration, that this administration's views are different from those of its predecessor regarding the issue of peace?

['Abd-al-Shafi] We have not tested the new U.S. Administration yet. Although it said it would be more interested in the peace process and that it would be a full partner, it has thus far not clarified its concept of these terms. Therefore, it is premature to talk about this subject. We as a Palestinian delegation cannot rely on mere talk.

[Al-Hisban] There seems to be unanimous agreement that the negotiations are deadlocked. This is prompting some people to call for improving the negotiating conditions within the peace process. Do you believe this can be achieved?

['Abd-al-Shafi] We are not trying to improve these conditions. This is not the issue. The issue is one of Israel's respect for the terms of reference of the peace process. Israel claims that we want to change the Madrid formula. Our response to this is that we do not want to change the Madrid formula. However, we demand that Israel respect the terms of reference of the peace process defined by the Madrid formula based on Resolutions 242 and 338. The peace process is possible if Israel adheres to it.

[Al-Hisban] Israel is claiming that escalation of the intifadah in the occupied Arab territories in obstructing the negotiations?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Israel says many things. However, if it wants to follow the road to negotiations or to a peaceful solution, then it is easy, it is through the implementation of Resolution 799.

[Al-Hisban] After the escalation of resistance in the occupied territories and in light of Israeli intransigence, what, in your opinion, is the future of the negotiations and what is the Palestinian stand?

['Abd-al-Shafi] All I can say is that we are in a predicament. We are still making efforts so that Israel would respond to calls for adhering to legitimacy and peace by respecting the terms of reference of the peace process, Resolutions 242 and 338, as well as Resolution 799 on the deportees. We are still trying through the U.S. peace cosponsor. If Israel responds to the requirements of peace and international legitimacy, then this will open the way for the resumption of the negotiations. This is the responsibility of Israel as much as it is the responsibility of the U.S. cosponsor.

[Al-Hisban] What is the extent of opposition to the peace process, and what impact does it have:

['Abd-al-Shafi] When the peace process began, opposition came from Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the Popular Front, and others. The opposition was a minority while the majority supported the peace process. After the Madrid conference, there was an overwhelming majority in favor of the peace process. This prompted Hamas and other opposition quarters to play the role of observer. However, the negotiations started, but made no progress, and Israel continued its criminal acts and settlement policy. All this weakened credibility in the peace process and increased opposition to it. Opposition was not merely initiated to support the opposing quarters or to increase affiliation to them. Opposition came from citizens who first supported the peace process and took to the streets rejoicing over it, but who were later disappointed and began to realize that the peace process was useless.

The people began to express their disappointement. Then came the deportation decision, which dealt a big blow to the peace process. Consequently, the supporters of the peace process became a weak minority and the majority began to demand that we withdraw from the negotiations. This prompted us to say that we will not attend the negotiations unless these conditions are met.

[Al-Hisban] Does your stand mean that you might abandon the peace process?

['Abd-al-Shafi] This stand does not mean that we have abandoned our principled commitment to the principle of peace because this commitment emanates from our National Council. This means that we will always be ready to take part in the peace process.

[Al-Hisban] What is your assessment of the Damascus meeting and coordination among countries taking part in the negotiations.

['Abd-al-Shafi] I am completely optimistic about a unified Arab stand.

[Al-Hisban] It was understood from some of your statements that you are against a unilateral Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Gaza Strip without the notification of the Palestinian side?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I am not against Israeli withdrawal. However, it must be noted that we are not negotiating over the Gaza Strip. We are negotiating over the entire political issue. If Israel wants, for certain circumstance, to withdraw unilaterally, we will not ask it to stay. If Israel wants to withdraw, which is something already known, then it should inform us. In any case, it is not likely to withdraw because it has settlers and settlements. We reject any conditional withdrawal. if Israel wants to withdraw without restrictions or conditions, then it should inform us so that we will take the necessary precautions to maintian law and order and so that life will continue as normal. Any society, regardless of how sophisticated it may become, still needs to have people cater for its needs and security.

[Al-Hisban] But in the case of a withdrawal, what measures can be taken to maintain security?

['Abd-al-Shafi] In this case, we may ask for outside help, either from the United Nations or from a neighboring Arab country such as Egypt or Jordan to maintian order until the establishment of institutions that would take care of these issues.

[Al-Hisban] We are approaching the ninth round of negotiations. Can it be said that the past eight rounds achieved part of a solution?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Nothing has been achieved so far.

[Al-Hisban] Some Israeli officials say that some tracks in the peace talks are close to signing an agreement?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Such statements are aimed at creating confusion and differences among the Arab delegations. However, the Arab delegations are alert to this. These Israeli gimmicks will not deceive us and such statements will not worry us.

I believe that our relations with Arab brothers should continue to be good and cordial regardless of all considerations. It must be realized that Israel spreads rumors to try to pressure us into returning to the negotiating table.

Qaddumi on Damascus Meeting, Peace Process

JN0104155293 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 1 Apr 93 pp 4, 18

[Interview with Faruq Qaddumi, chief of the PLO Political Department, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[Text] [Correspondent] Has the Damascus meeting demonstrated support for Palestinian demands?

[Qaddumi] The aim behind these periodic meetings was initially to forge a unified Arab position. This has been achieved. We discussed all issues in a responsible, brotherly spirit. We had identical views on all issues, and this was reflected in the statement we gave to the press.

We think there are many obstacles to the peace process that should be removed. As Arab parties, we should initiate more contacts with all parties involved, especially the cosponsors of the conference and European nations to remove these impediments. We have expressed our keen interest and concern to pursue the peace process and achieve peace on the bases set forth in the U.S. initiative, primarily, paying deference to international legitimacy.

[Correspondent] The Damascus meeting was to decide on Arab participation in the ninth round of negotiations. The meeting, however, suspended this issue. Do you think contacts will produce fresh results?

[Qaddumi] We know that negotiations have taken a zigzag course. From the outset, Israel has set conditions to obstruct the peace process. We have done a great deal

to convene the peace conference on schedule. Therefore, we want it to convene and we want negotiations to continue, but not at the expense of the national rights of the Palestinian people. We might suspend our participation in the talks several times because we know that Israel does not want peace. The cosponsors of the conference and European nations backing Israel should put pressure on it. These nations should also halt their support for Israel. Then, it will comply, since it is a small state that cannot continue on its own without Western support. We are pursuing this march and are hopeful that peace will be achieved. As Arabs, we have defined our goals and made it very clear that we want peace. Israel should, therefore, stop its terrorist practices, respect human rights, and halt settlement activity, which is a basic demand. It should also stop revolving in a vicious circle and abandon its illusion that the Palestinian people will accept administrative rule, because the Palestinian people are not a minority. There are actually twice as many of them as there are Israelis.

[Correspondent] Will you take part in the negotiations if further contacts and efforts draw a blank?

[Qaddumi] This would mean that Israel has managed to destroy the peace process and does not want to respect international legitimacy, which constitutes the very basis of the peace process, and that Israel is persisting with its settlement policy, which is deemed illegitimate worldwide. Security Council Resolution 465 calls for removing settlements; Resolution 242 calls for Israel's withdrawal [from the occupied territories]. Therefore, Israel does not plan to withdraw from occupied Palestinian and Arab territory, nor from Jerusalem. Israel wants to exclude the question of Jerusalem, does not want to return the deportees, and does not respect human rights. It is a racist, not a democratic, state, and sanctions must be imposed on it so as to continue the negotiations.

We are making efforts to arrive at solutions, but the negotiations are taking a zigzag course. The negotiations could be suspended from time to time because of the Israeli position.

[Correspondent] What if some Arab parties went to the talks before the current obstacles are removed?

[Qaddumi] We always answer realistic questions. When such a thing happens, we will study matters practically. So far nothing of this sort has happened, and there has still been no Arab decision to go to the negotiations.

[Correspondent] Did the Palestinian side ask President Husni Mubarak to convey some of the demands to Washington?

[Qaddumi] Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] visited Cairo yesterday in response to an official invitation, prior to President Mubarak's visit to the United States, to talk about the issues we have been discussing.

[Correspondent] How would you characterize Palestinian efforts in the next stage in light of the stalemate in the peace process?

[Qaddumi] Pursuing our struggle through our blessed intifadah, which is making achievements daily. This is the basic factor. We then have our ongoing political struggle. We have, therefore, political struggle, diplomatic moves, and our ongoing intifadah. Victory is ours.

[Correspondent] There has been a steady decline in the initial Palestinian grassroots support for PLO involvement in the peace process. How do you react to this opposition?

[Qaddumi] Let me put the record straight on the Palestinian position. Negotiating represents an open option to all peoples waging nationalist struggles. It has been tried by the Vietnamese, for whom it was an on-again, off-again exercise. It is a choice pursued by liberation movements to wring concessions from their enemies.

Initially, the Palestinian people had high hopes that the negotiations would yield tangible results, and when these failed to materialize they understandably felt let down. The escalation we are witnessing in the intifadah is a natural and wholesome reaction. I should point out that the negotiations will be long and drawn out, and our people have to get used to this.

We are not negotiating for the sake of the negotiations. If at some point down the line the negotiations prove pointless, it will be up to us to call a halt to them. We know, however, that political action at this stage is a course we have to take. In our political and diplomatic fight with the enemy, we want to score points and put Israel on the spot. We will also seek to apply economic and psychological pressure and make the enemy feel that it is friendless. We have thus far made some headway in Europe. A Palestinian delegation, including PLO representatives, has recently been to Britain on the first such visit to the birthplace of the Zionist movement. Another case in point is Belgium, where the Palestinian representation has been upgraded. There has been a gradual erosion in the support for Israel in traditionally pro-Israeli nations, and at the same time there has been a tilt toward us. In the meantime, we will persist in our political efforts which will go hand in hand with the intifadah.

[Correspondent] How do you react to the remark by the deportee spokesman that they will have nothing to do with the progress of negotiations and that they will not be bound by PLO decisions?

[Qaddumi] It is inconceivable that the deportee spokesman should say that the PLO does not represent them. They have the right to turn down certain proposals. However, as the leadership of the Palestinian people, we are making moves on behalf of their repatriation, and this is our duty. Beyond the criticism leveled at us, we appreciate their harsh living conditions. They are active and dynamic members of the Palestinian

community. We respect their views. But, as leaders of the Palestinian people, we are duty bound to work toward the repatriation of our brothers who are holding their ground at Marj al-Zuhur.

[Correspondent] Don't you think that your decision not to rejoin the negotiations brings you closer to the position of the Palestinian factions opposed to your participation? Are you working on a plan to unite the Palestinian position?

[Qaddumi] It is not unnatural that we do not see eye to eye on everything. Indeed, it is wholesome. If we are true democrats, we must respect and defend each other's opinions, and in the end let us go along with the majority vote. Our decision to join the peace process in the first place was made by a Palestine National Council vote, by which we must abide. Our brothers are entitled to criticize. At each stage we set out the details to them as our partners. If and when the peace process proves futile, we will let them know. All of us are making positive contributions through constructive criticism.

When we were in Damascus, we put them in the picture of developments in the interest of bridging our positions, so that their criticism may be more to the point.

[Correspondent] How do you rate the state of coordination with Jordan?

[Qaddumi] There is a high degree of coordination with our Jordanian brothers. We are together in a joint delegation, and together we discuss developments as they happen to arrive at a united stand. We are also coordinating actions with the four other Arab parties involved in the peace process with a view to forging a unified Arab position.

Territories' Closure Symbolizes Policy Failure

TA0104195093 Jerusalem AL-TALI'AH in Arabic 1 Apr 93 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "An Official Declaration of Bankruptcy"]

[Text] This is not the first time that the current or previous Israeli governments have decided to intensify punitive measures. Augmenting military forces, launching detention and search campaigns, and imposing a complete closure on the occupied territories has happened before. What draws attention to the recent measures, however, is their grave repercussions on the negotiating process. In addition these measures consider the Palestinian masses as military targets and the occupied territories as a legitimate battlefield.

Rabin aims to separate the Gaza Strip and West Bank from Israel. Such a separation should stand on its feet, not on its head, and should reach its practical conclusion by Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories and not the opposite.

Rabin's decision to pursue "a policy of separation" while occupying and turning the territories and the population into military targets for the army is a policy with a success rate no better than previous policies tested by consecutive Israeli governments that also failed to reinforce the occupation.

If those policies epitomized the impasse of their initiators, this policy, too, epitomizes the same impasse and an inability to understand the changing reality and draw the necessary conclusions.

Just as many ministers in Rabin's cabinet have considered the current policy of separation as terminating the so-called policy of Greater Israel pursued by the previous Likud government, so we say that this new-old policy is an official declaration of the failure of all the occupation policies. The time has come for Rabin to admit this reality at the negotiating table.

PFLP-GC on Bombing of 'Civilian Targets'

JN0104174693 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1655 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] A military official for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has made the following statement:

On Thursday, 1 April 1993, at exactly 0400 until 0530 Lebanon local time, Zionist gunboats and helicopters bombed social and human affairs offices for the PFLP-GC in the Nahr al-Barid camp, in the north of Lebanon. An office was hit and two of our comrades were injured; one is in critical condition while the other, a male nurse, sustained slight injuries.

The Zionist aggression against civilian and human affairs targets confirms the enemy's bankruptcy and shows that it has lost its temper. The enemy has continuously been unable to confront the PFLP-GC fighters. That is why we see it direct its hits against civilian targets that have a human character.

The PFLP-GC pledges to our people everywhere to pursue the armed jihad and struggle until the liberation of Palestine, all of Palestine.

Algeria

Toll in Army Barracks Attack Now 19 Dead

LD2040081693 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] The death toll of soldiers killed in the attack [22 March] by 35 terrorists against a National People's Army barracks in Bougzoul has risen to 19, and the gendarmerie has reported an assassination following an attack against a gendarmerie patrol. The details with Hizia Hideb:

[Hideb] Chief Warrant Officer Challali Hamoud died of his wounds after he was hit by bullets fired by terrorists the day before yesterday at two vehicles of the National Gendarmerie in Baghli municipality, Dellys district, while on an ordinary mission in the streets of the municipality. According to the gendarmerie command it was not possible to shoot back at the terrorists because they were hidden in a large crowd of citizens.

The same source said that a soldier died on Monday of his wounds suffered during the attack against the Bougzoul barracks. The number of soldiers killed has risen to 19 victims, in addition to 12 wounded.

It is known that 23 terrorists have been killed including two soldiers implicated in the operation. The gendarmerie reports that 16 other terrorists, including a noncommissioned officer who is an accomplice, remain at large. The source adds that one of the terrorists has been identified as Kalli Said, aka Ayoub, a 32-year- old post office employee who lives in La Montagne district in El Harrach.

The National Gendarmerie Command also says that five buses belonging to the national passenger transportation company have been set on fire in Lakhdaria. The operation was carried out by five people who then fled.

Security Forces Arrest Assassination Squads

LD0104205893 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Security services in the capital were recently able to arrest the armed terrorist group which had attempted to assassinate Tahar Hamdi, minister of labor and social affairs. Another group involved in the assassination of Dr. Laadi Flici has also been arrested.

[Unidentified Speaker] this group is a terroristic one the majority of whom live in the capital, in Mahieddine housing estate to be more precise. They carried out many assassinations and sabotage operations in Algiers Province and elsewhere. [passage omitted]

Dr. Laadi Flici was assassinated in his clinic on 17 March. [passage omitted] Afterward, the services of the judicial police initiated an inquiry into the assassination of Dr. Flici. Following an investigation, the members of the unit were able to arrest three persons who belong to the armed movement which is active in the Casbah. This investigation led to shedding light on the assassination of Dr. Laadi Flici, may God's mercy be upon him. [passage omitted]

Security Surrounds Terrorists Holding Bank Hostages

LD0104204993 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] According to the Algerian Press Service, the Algerian National Bank agency in El Afroune in Blida Province was a target of an armed attack yesterday afternoon. The band is still surrounded by the security forces, and it has been observed on the spot.

According to a source close to the security service at the El Afroune district, the band are holding 11 hostages including two women and two customers. The same source noted that the number of the terrorists could be between five and seven men armed with automatic pistols, hunting rifles, and possibly automatic weapons. The same source said that the terrorists who seized a considerable sum of money in dinars and hard currency were not able to flee the place which was quickly surrounded by the security forces as soon as they were alerted via the alarm bell which was sounded by one of the bank employees.

The same source said also that the situation remains unchanged and the terrorists reject any dialogue with the security forces.

Update on Bank Attack

LD0204074793 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] The terrorists are adopting new means for their defense: the taking of innocent citizens as hostages. This has been happening since Wednesday evening when five terrorists took 12 [as heard] persons hostage, including 10 employees of the Algerian National Bank. This reveals an attempt to escalate the means of terrorism which started when these terrorists stormed the branch of the Algerian National Bank in El Affroune, about 55 km from Algiers. Before they were able to take away large amounts in dinar and foreign currency which they had stolen from the bank, the security services surrounded the place after they had been informed about the attack.

The terrorists, armed with automatic pistols and shotguns, are refusing any dialogue with the security authorities surrounding the bank.

EC's Cheysson Expresses Solidarity With State

LD0103092993 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] In the framework of his visit to Algeria at the head of an important delegation of European MPs, Claude

Cheysson, in charge of relations with the Arab Maghreb, held a news conference yesterday. Correspondent Lakhdar Darragi reports:

[Darragi] Claude Cheysson touched on the range of issues he had discussed with the Algerian officials. Cheysson, head of the EC delegation for relations with the Maghreb Countries and Arab Maghreb Union at the European Parliament in his news conference expressed surprise at the obstructing of the second part of the loan provided for in the protocol of agreement between Algeria and the EC. Responding to a question on the contribution of the European Parliament in the settling of Algerian debts, the head of the European Parliament delegation said that the Algerian debts are completely different from those of the other developing countries, a matter that does not justify its rescheduling because they are private and short-term loans.

Regarding the results of his visit, the European parliamentarian said that the interest attached to Algeria is due to the fact that it is a country very close to the EC, and it is also a country where future development of events will affect the EC. He said: When we think about Algeria we think about ourselves.

Cheysson also said: [Begin Cheysson recording, in French fading into Arabic translation] The formal subject of our visit to Algiers was to hold meetings provided for in the cooperation agreement signed by Algeria and even the Maghreb countries. I have been able to have talks with the Algerian officials in various domains: emigration, human rights and a range of cultural and humanitarian relations. Concerning emigration and cultural relations, the issue was particularly sentitive for us due to the difficulties in certain fields caused by the presence of many immigrants in our countries.

What is going on Algeria is for us an almost vital interest; all that touches the Mediterranean countries touches us, and therefore we put on record our solidarity with you in this domain. [end recording]

Concludes Visit

LD0104202893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Before concluding his visit to Algeria at the head of an important delegation of European parliamentarians, Mr Claude Cheysson, who is in charge of relations with the Arab Maghreb, held a news conference during which he reviewed the contents of his talks with Algerian officials and personalities. Cheysson affirmed that the European parliamentarians had placed great insistence on the question of human rights, which they consider very important. He also indicated that the questions of interaction, emigration, trade, and cultural relations with the Algerians have been touched on.

Also, the questions of cooperation, security and dialogue between the two shores of the Mediterranean with the AMU states were discussed. The two sides agreed to revive examination of joint government cooperation between the Five Plus Five Group, namely the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] states plus France, Italy, Portugal, Spain, and Malta.

With regard to the political situation in Algeria, Claude Cheysson stated that what is happening in Algeria is of great importance for Europe, and everything that affects a Mediterranean state affects us all. Regarding the economic relations between Algeria and the European Economic Community, which are based on hydrocarbons and are developing, Cheysson said that during the meetings which he held with Algerian officials, especially with the minister of energy, a review was made of the Maghreban-European pipeline project as a factor of stability in European-Maghreban relations.

On the other hand, the Algerian officials drew the attention of the parliamentary delegation to the necessity of adjustment in some aspects in the field of cooperation and mutual dealings such as training in accordance with Algeria's own circumstances.

Finally, the head of the parliamentary group and the accompanying delegation are due to leave Algeria today at noon for Tunis after a three-day visit.

Higher State Council Receives Hamas Delegation

LD3103154493 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Within the context of the dialogue being held with political and social forces, the Higher State Council, led by Ali Kafi, has received a delegation of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], led by Cheikh Mahfouz Nahna. The meeting took place today at the presidential headquarters. Hamas is the second political (?organization) to be received by the Higher State Council since the National Liberation Front was received on 14 March. It is worth noting that the meeting with Hamas was postponed from the original date of 22 March.

Egypt

Mubarak on Efforts With Clinton, Rabin on Talks

NC0104192593 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] In an exclusive interview with the newspaper AL-HAYAH yesterday, President Husni Mubarak stressed that peace in the Middle East will be attained and that the current wave of terrorism in Egypt will end.

Responding to a question on Egypt's efforts to remove the obstacles facing the ninth round of peace talks and secure participation of all Arab parties in the talks, Mubarak said he will work with President Clinton on this issue. He noted that he will explore Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's views on his [Mubarak's] proposals to see if Rabin can accept them in light of his

[Mubarak's] recent talks and agreement with Syrian President al-Asad on the negotiating issue.

More on Interview

NC0104205893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1856 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] London, 1 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has confirmed that peace will be established in the Middle East and that the current wave of terrorism in Egypt will end. He also said Egypt does not interfere in other countries' internal affairs.

In an interview with AL-HAYAH newspaper to be published tomorrow, the president said he and U.S. President Bill Clinton will discuss views on the peace process. The president noted that these views, which he did not disclose, are helpful and encourage a trip to Washington prior to the start of the peace talks, set for 20 April.

President Mubarak said he hopes the peace talks will be resumed on this date and will yield a result or an agreement before the end of this year.

Asked whether opponents of the peace negotiations from countries such as Iran and extremist groups will be able to block the peace process, the president replied: Not if there is a genuine desire for peace. He added that he is fully confident that a genuine will to reach a solution exists, and we should not yield to Iran or any other country on the matter.

He noted that Egypt is trying to resolve the Lockerbie issue. He said he hopes for success before sanctions are tightened against Libya. He said he discussed this issue with a number of British officials and will discuss it with British Prime Minister John Major and the British foreign secretary.

Replying to a question, the president stressed that Libyan opposition in Egypt is not active and that Egypt does not allow any activity against Libya or any other Arab country. He said: If a Libyan citizen lives in Egypt and is not involved in political activity, I cannot prevent him from staying because he is an Arab citizen. We (?do not permit) any activity against Libya, nor do we allow any Arab opposition in our country. We welcome any Arab citizen but do not allow any political activities against his home country. We are not enemies of Arab countries and will not bring in opposition to Arab countries. This would be neither sensible nor acceptable.

Mubarak discussed whether he can convince the Libyan opposition to reconcile with the Libyan regime, saying: We are trying, but time is needed.

The president confirmed that Egypt is not engaged in dialogue with [Sudan's] Hasan al-Turabi and has no contact with him. He said extremist training camps exist in Sudan, adding that they are not like armed forces training camps but rather like agricultural plots of land where extremists are brought on the pretext of employing them there. Under this cover, he added, they receive training and are given ammunition and instructions. The Iranians work with them for this purpose.

He explained that (?Egyptians), Algerians, and people from all Arab countries are trained in camps like these. The president reaffirmed that Egypt does not interfere in Sudan's affairs and does not intend to. He said Egypt has not interfered in Sudan's decisionmaking and deals with Sudan as an independent sovereign state.

President Mubarak described reports that an undeclared war is under way in Egypt with terrorist groups as mere foreign propaganda, saying: "There is no war whatsoever." He said the terrorist groups are small groups exploited by external forces that give them erroneous advice. He said: "These forces deceive the terrorist groups by giving them small sums of money; so they bomb small targets; fire at a tourist bus, attack some people, or make noise." He noted that those who carry out such acts are convicts who went to fight in Afghanistan.

President Mubarak stressed that Egypt is facing these groups within the law and the democratic system, from which we will not deviate, he added. He questioned whether Islam is synonymous with bombing, murder, and bloodshed, saying: "If this is their concept of Islam in Iran, let them keep it, but let them stay away form the genuine realm of Islam. They are not the custodians of Muslims in the world."

Responding to a question as to whether Iran and Sudan support extremist movements in Egypt and Arab countries, President Mubarak replied in the affirmative, emphasizing that he does not support interference in the domestic affairs of any country, be it Iran or any other.

In response to a question about if he feels that rivalry for influence in the Horn of Africa or in the Arabian Peninsula is one of the reasons for Iran's position on Egypt, President Mubarak said: The Iranians want to control the Gulf countries and take their wealth. The Iranians, he added, are very unhappy with the "Damascus Declaration" because (?Egypt joined it). He said: I tell our brothers in Iran that being rational and exchanging views is very good, but that the use of force will be useless.

President Mubarak denied that Egypt asked the United States to hand over 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman. Asked whether Egypt wants to ask the United States to hand him over, Mubarak said: "He is an Egyptian; if he wants to come, he is welcome."

Asked how long Egypt will be able to tolerate Iran's actions, President Mubarak said: We will respond to Iran at the proper time. The time to respond will come, he said, adding: We abhor terrorism. Terrorism means killing innocent people, and we are opposed to killing innocent people under any circumstances. We will respond in a different way if Iran continues its actions.

President Comments on Terror, 'Abd-al-Rahman

NC0204110493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0935 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Kuwait, 2 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stated that Egyptian people from every faction and leaning are confronting terrorism. The government campaign to uproot terrorism is one of the most outstanding national campaigns involving the entire Egyptian people, he added, noting that the national and opposition press speak the same language when it comes to the need to eliminate terrorism.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti paper AL-SIYASAH to be published on 3 April, President Mubarak said he instructed the competent authorities to exercise their powers firmly to end this nonsense and terminate the disgraceful conduct that is not endorsed by Islam. He added: He who kills an innocent person, spreads ruin and destruction, and terrorizes defenseless people is not a Muslim. Events are alien to the values, customs, and traditions of the civilized Egyptian people.

President Mubarak said the purpose of the terrorist operations is to undermine Egypt as a state, its role, culture, and history and to distract it from playing its role as a strategic shield for its Arab brothers and those who need it among its Islamic and African friends. He emphasized that the terrorist phenomenon is [word indistinct] control and that terrorism is drawing its last breath.

In the interview by Chief Editor Ahmad al-Jarallah, President Mubarak said a military tribunal was set up to try terrorists to speed up the trial procedures of those who committed crimes against Egypt and its people. He noted that the methods and procedures followed by civilian courts may not allow for a speedy verdict on such fateful issues. He added: By referring them to a military court, we wanted to keep the civilian judiciary safe from any terrorist threats by these groups. He went on: Using a military court is in line with the Egyptian people's desire to speed up deterrents against those who tamper with the people's lives and livelihood.

In his interview, President Mubarak said there is no going back on democracy and explained that democracy is primarily the choice of the Egyptian people, therefore it is his option. He said he will not gag an opposing voice or stop an opposing pen, adding that that which is publishable will be published as long as there is a law to which the people resort.

President Mubarak said the world is witnessing terrorist acts and said he believed that events in Egypt are less serious than those elsewhere. He stressed that the terrorists are drawing their last breath and that their recent acts indicate that they have become desperate and lost hope of achieving any objective after the noose was tightened around their necks by the people in all their factions and by the security authorities, which have shown a high degree of efficiency and courage in confronting these terrorists.

President Mubarak said: 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman is a media creation more than a political or religious one. He added: 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman is not another Khomeyni. And Egypt is not another Iran. So there is no room for similarities or comparisons. "But if the media want to create a sensational topic, this does not concern me greatly." He said: 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman is not important and has no weight or influence. If he returns to Egypt tomorrow, he will be referred to trial to face charges. He will be tried according to the laws of the country. If he is convicted, he will be punished and if he is acquitted, he will live as an ordinary citizen.

In his interview, President Mubarak said he was happy his mission to end the temporary dispute between Saudi Arabia and Qatar succeeded. He praised the spirit of brotherhood shown by King Fahd and the amir of Qatar. He also said he was happy because Egyptian diplomacy has succeeded in its mission. This proves Egypt's lofty status in the eyes of the leaders of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the other Gulf Cooperation Council states.

President Mubarak said Egypt's status in the Gulf is one of the main reasons the terrorist campaign was launched against us; the aim is to isolate the Gulf states.

Paper on Mubarak, al-Sadat Similarities

NC0104194093 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 23 Mar 93 pp 3, 6

[Article by Chief Editor 'Adil Husayn]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Haven't we said that it is impossible to understand what is being cooked up for Egypt and what is actually being implemented now without an astute examination of events in the Arab-Islamic region?

We believe the public looting law in Egypt (known as the Business Sector Law), which is handing over our national projects to foreigners and Zionists at ridiculously low prices, is part of the general looting going on in the region. Add to this the dangerous amendment to the Banks Law, which opened the door to 22 major foreign banks to deal in Egyptian currency. These two developments taken together—handing over our enterprises and funds to foreigners—are the actual introduction of the so-called "Middle East market".

What is happening in our country is inseparable from events in most other countries in this region. However, at moments of defiance, the Egyptian people will stand up to aggression and lead others on the path of resistance, just as in the past they confronted the Crusaders, the Tartars, and European colonialism. We will do the same in the current confrontation, God willing. We will endure and will not be afraid, regardless of how much power they assemble against us. We will tolerate lack of money and goods but we will never abandon our rights or commit treason. We will never hand over the Islamic nation to the enemies.

Our rulers have complied with most of the demands placed on them. Now, in the wake of their decisions concerning the national projects and the foreign banks, President Mubarak is making a trip to Washington to meet with the U.S. President, who will undoubtedly ask him to make further concessions. Indeed the president is going to Washington this time amid murky circumstances, similar to those surrounding late President Anwar al-Sadat during his last trip to meet former U.S. President Reagan. Following that visit, the view was circulated that the United States no longer wanted him in power.

Jalal Duwaydar's article in AL-AKHBAR last Sunday [21 March] clearly points to this. Ibrahim Sa'dah's earlier article in AKHBAR AL-YAWM [20 March] also points to widespread corruption as a reason for cutting off U.S. aid (it has actually been reduced).

It is well known that al-Sadat's last days witnessed many disturbances (by patriots and agents alike, both sides seeking their own objectives). In that climate of chaos, sectarian strife erupted and there was widespread talk in the United States about Copts being persecuted in Egypt.

The same thing is happening now: The government's impotence has produced social tensions, fervent political opposition by patriotic forces, and armed violence. At the same time, we witness intense economic pressure on Egypt from the United States and international organizations. I was surprised to see the magazine WATANI entering the fray: In its last issue it published a dangerous article about the persecution of Copts under President Mubarak, police collusion with "terrorists," and the government's failure to confront them now.

It is strange that this magazine, the church's mouthpiece, should begin using the tone of an opposition political party! It is natural—as we have always said—for the Coptic brothers to express their political views (for or against the government) but they should do this through the political parties, not the church.

The omens are therefore gathering around the president and threatening his government's stability before his Washington trip. Perhaps these omens will be used to exert further pressure on him to extract more concessions. When al-Sadat was besieged in this way, his emotional response took the form of the September [1981] events during which he tyrannized influential people and opinion makers of all political persuasions. President Mubarak, in his turn, tried recently to restrict political parties and threatened to jail their leaders. He then turned to the professional unions and began liquidating them. By escalating his war against the violent groups, it has seemed as if his distinction between moderate and extremist Islamists is narrowing. This method failed in 1981, as we know. We do not think it will succeed in 1993.

We are hearing calls that a national front be formed to help the government. These calls contradict the method of repression being used. If intentions are true, it means giving the patriotic forces freedom of action to participate in politics and debate major national decisions, as they have the right to do.

The challenges we are facing in Egypt and the region call for energetic action by the nation's masses and organized bodies (Muslim and Christian) to roar defiance in the face of the greedy invaders. If this action is carried out, the corrupters and conspirators will shrink back into themselves and the president will go to Washington with his position enhanced.

Concerning the fight against the advocates of the politics of violence, we assert that we will be able to encircle them and terminate the phenomenon they represent if we embark on a policy of reform through a front of patriotic forces.

Regrettably, however, we do not think we and those in the ruling party who made the call to form a national front have the same thing in mind. The culmination of what they want is to have the leaders of the political parties meet at a general congress or sign a statement condemning terrorism and supporting an escalation of police action. Believe me, this is empty naive thinking that will only lead to further disturbances and deterioration on all fronts. But can the deaf hear?! [passage omitted]

List of Charges Against 'Abd-al-Rahman Complete

NC0204072393 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 24 Mar 93 p 1

[Text] AL-AHALI has learned that the competent authorities have completed a list of charges against al-Jihad Mufti Dr. 'Umar 'Abd- al-Rahman in case he is extradited from the United States to Egypt.

The list contains 12 charges including planning and inciting the assassination of officials and public figures, attempting to undermine the unity of the homeland through various means and in the name of religion, and seeking to illegally cripple the Constitution and law.

According to reliable sources, Cairo and Washington have exchanged information on the activities of Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman and his relations with some foreign countries and agencies.

In a press interview on Thursday [not further specified], the al-Jihad mufti said he has no relations with the Islamic Group, but he defended it.

Iran, Sudan, Local Terrorism Criticized

NC0104150693 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 28 Mar 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Isolating Terrorism, at Home and Abroad"]

[Text] The Arab world has not experienced anything like the current wave of terrorism and political violence since

its independence. The black terrorism that hides behind religion poses the greatest obstacle to the emergence of modern Arab states. It is a current threat to many Arab countries and forebodes future danger to the rest. It threatens economic and social development and foreshadows cultural stagnation. It is a threat to the individual, society, and governments.

Algeria recently severed diplomatic ties with Iran and recalled its ambassador to Sudan after all other well-intentioned methods failed to persuade those two countries to stop their intervention in Algerian affairs and their support for terrorist activities. Algeria's move is a step toward ostracizing the renegade regimes in the modern Arab-Islamic world. Their moral and financial support for terrorists has been proved by hard evidence and is demonstrated by statements made by officials in Khartoum and Tehran.

A wide-scale isolation of terrorist sources in Tehran and Khartoum would strongly inhibit those sources, despite the incidental damage severing ties would entail to some nations. The Sudanese and Iranian rulers' insistence on playing the renegade role makes the use of isolation a necessary weapon.

The weapon of isolation is also necessary to confront domestic sources of terrorism. This must be done without delay: Politicians and intellectuals must abandon their passivity and confront terrorism to salvage the scheme of building modern, economically developed, democratic, and enlightened states in the Arab region. The citizens must ostracize the terrorist and cast them from their ranks, today not tomorrow.

Despite the current bleak Arab climate, there are undeniable signs that ordinary citizens, here in Egypt and in other Arab countries, are confronting and ostracizing terrorists. This is the responsibility of the entire society, not merely the government or police.

The domestic and foreign ostracism of terrorism is a necessary step to destroy this intrusive phenomenon that threatens the Arab nations' future and attributes to the Arabs and Muslims sins of which they are innocent.

Libya

Tunisian President Ben Ali Arrives for Visit 1 Apr

Welcomed by al-Qadhdhafi

LD0104190093 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1723 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 1 Apr (JANA)—President of the Tunisian Republic President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali arrived this evening in Tripoli on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. He was welcomed by the leader of the revolution [Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi]. Also he was welcomed by Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, Colonel Mustafa al-Kharubi, Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, and Major al- Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi. [passage omitted]

[Tripoli JANA in Arabic at 1757 GMT on 1 April, in a Tripoli-datelined item, adds: "The brother leader of the revolution and President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of fraternal Tunisia, held a closed meeting this evening."]

Makes Arrival Statement

LD0104203993 Tunis RTT Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] President Ben Ali made a statement upon arrival in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in which he said: I would like to express my happiness at being in the fraternal Jamahiriyah today. I am also happy to meet with my brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the great Fatih revolution, and with the fraternal Libyan people which has with the Tunisian people bonds of kinship, neighborliness and common historical struggle and which has also largely contributed to the laying of the bases for the setting up of the Arab Maghreb edifice. As you are aware, my meetings with my brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, whether in the Jamahiriyah or in Tunisia have never warranted protocols. Rather, they have become a good tradition which epitomizes our joint concern to bolster the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two fraternal people and to examine issues of interest to the present and the future of the Arab nation given the current deep international development and transformation. And we have been very eager, since the 7 November change [1987; Ben Ali's takeover from Bourguiba], to give those relations the necessary importance and lay down a brotherly atmosphere which facilitates the process of contacts and cooperation between the two countries in such a way that will contribute to the consolidation of the edifice of our Arab Maghreb Union [AMU].

Thanks be to God that the relations between our two peoples are characterized by the consolidation of the feelings of friendship, cooperation, and solidarity in the way they have always been throughout history. I would like on this occasion to greet the fraternal Libyan people and wish them prosperity, progress, and impregnability.

Meets With al-Qadhdhafi, Officials

LD0204085893 Tripoli JANA in English 0840 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tayer [Apr] 2 JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution [Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] held an enlarged meeting last night with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of the sisterly Republic of Tunisia.

The meeting was attended by Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, Colonel Mustafa al-Kharubi and Major Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi.

The meeting was also attended by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Affairs and the secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity.

The foreign minister of sisterly Tunisia, Habib Ben Yahya was also present.

Attends al-Qadhdhafi Banquet

LD0204091393 Tripoli JANA in English 0842 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tayer [Apr] 2 JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution last night held a banquet in honour of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali the president of the sisterly Republic of Tunisia and his accompanying delegation.

The banquet was attended by 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, Colonel Mustafa al-Kharubi and Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi.

It was also attended by a number of members of the General People's Congress, secretary and members of the General People's Committee, the delegate of the Great Jamahariyah to sisterly Tunisia and the delegate general of Tunisia to the Great Jamahariyah.

Holds Final Meeting

LD0204101393 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0930 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Tripoli, 2 Apr (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution [Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] held an extended meeting this morning with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of fraternal Tunisia. The meeting included Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, and Colonel al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi. The meeting was also attended by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity, the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Energy, and brother Habib Ben Yahya, foreign minister of sisterly Tunisia.

It was also attended by the envoy of the Great Jamahiriyah in Tunisia and the envoy of Tunisia to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Concludes Visit, Departs

LD0204102293 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0934 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 2 Apr (JANA)—Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and the delegation accompanying him left Tripoli this morning after a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. The brother leader of the revolution [Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] was at the forefront of those who saw him off. [passage omitted]

Arab Unity Against U.S. Embargo Threat Urged

PM0204102793 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 1 Apr 93 p 11

[Editorial: "Imminent Oil Embargo Against Libya"]

[Excerpts] Testifying before Congress yesterday, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said that his government intends to hold contacts with its Western allies with a view to imposing an oil embargo on the Libyan Jamahiriyah for refusing to hand over two suspects linked to the U.S. airliner explosion over Lockerbie in Scotland.

That serious revelation, its timing, its objectives, and the Arab and international silence about it certainly indicate that a new plot is being hatched against an independent Arab country to deprive it of its only source of income even though it has not occupied any territory belonging to anybody else or violated the sovereignty of another state.

An oil embargo against Libya would literally mean that the U.S. Administration has a sadistic desire to starve the Libyan people and punish them because of an inaccurate charge fabricated against some individuals without any genuine evidence, and before justice has had its say. [passage omitted]

Perhaps if Libya handed over the wanted suspects, that might be a step toward unraveling the mystery, but why should the Arabs, and not others, be requested to hand over their sons to courts of unfriendly states determined to fabricate charges against their peoples and governments?

Having lived in the West, we know that states which respect themselves and their laws do not hand their nationals over to another state because that would cast doubt on their own judiciary system and justice and would undermine their own sovereignty. [passage omitted]

We call on the Arab states to all support their just causes at once. We are confident that a stand by half the Arabs in support of the Jamahiriyah against this American arrogance would stop that arrogance. Suffice it to say here that the PLO's refusal to receive the U.S. invitation to the peace negotiations has confused the United States and those eager to please it and has impeded the multilateral negotiations. So why should we not take a stand of honor in support of our brothers in Libya and Iraq, particularly as we hold all the pressure cards?

The question is addressed to those Arabs who exhausted us with their talk about international legitimacy in Kuwait. Libya, with its oil and Arabism, is no lesser a country than Kuwait.

Morocco

UN Representative on Sahara Arrives for Talks

LD3103223493 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Excerpt] Mr. Driss Basri, minister of interior and information, in the presence of Mr. Ahmed Snoussi, Morocco permanent UN delegate, held a working session with Mr. Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, UN special representative in charge of the issue of the Moroccan Sahara. This meeting reviewed the recent UN Security Council Resolution 809 on the holding of a referendum in our southern regions before the end of the current year, and the planned measures before the date of this referendum. This meeting was attended by the close aides of the minister of interior and information.

Following the visit that Mr. Yaqub Khan paid to Laayoune, the UN official made a statement before his departure from Hassan I Airport in which he indicated that his visit to Morocco, during which he was received by His Majesty King Hassan II, falls within the UN efforts and endeavors to settle the Saharan issue. In this context, he recalled the latest Security Council resolution in which it called for the resumption and intensification of the political dialogue. [passage omitted]

Cherkaoui Talks With Russian Deputy Foreign Minister

LD3103142493 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Mar 92

[Text] Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Kolokolov today held talks with Mr. Ahmed Cherkaoui, secretary of state for foreign affairs, in which he dealt with the relations which link Morocco and Russia, and ways of strengthening them. The talks also dealt with the situation in the Balkan states, the Middle East issue, and the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Minister Filali Meets With Saddam Envoy

JN0104191693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1820 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Rabat, 1 Apr (INA)—Mr. Barzan al-Tikriti, His Excellency [Iraqi] President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy, met in Rabat last night with Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation.

An INA correspondent in Rabat said that they discussed fraternal bilateral ties and the means of enhancing them. They also exchanged views on issues of common interest.

The meeting was attended by Abdellatif Moulin [name as received], head of the Arab Department at the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Iraqi ambassador to Morocco.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Returns From Libya, Comments

EA0104145093 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and of the Council of Ministers, and the delegation accompanying him arrived at Khartoum airport at 1800 today after a visit to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah lasting several days, during which he met the internationalist leader, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. [passage omitted] On arrival, his excellency made the following statement:

[Begin recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful: Our visit to the Jamahiriyah was to activate relations between the two countries. We discussed relations and [word indistinct] the integration charter. God willing, the higher ministerial commission for integration will soon meet in Khartoum to consider the integration process and [word indistinct] the integration charter and activating it for unionist steps [word indistinct], God willing.

[Unidentified reporter] Your Excellency the President: This is your first visit to the Jamahiriyah after [word indistinct]. How did you find the Libyan people coping with the harsh sanctions imposed on them?

[Al-Bashir] Praise be to God: Naturally, we found the Libyan people steadfast and their morale extremely high. They are prepared for all the consequences of the air ban imposed on the Jamahiriyah. Indeed, we found them more than prepared for the development (?against them).

[Reporter] Your Excellency the President: Did the discussions touch on any Libyan mediation over the Egyptian aggression against Sudan's territory in Hala'ib ?

[Al-Bashir] The issues we discussed included Egyptian-Sudanese relations. We clearly defined Sudan's position. We will not tolerate the occupation of our territories. It is not possible to talk about the development of Egyptian-Sudanese relations while Egypt occupies Sudan's (?territory).

[Question indistinct]

[Al-Bashir] Certainly, we discussed ways of clearing the Arab atmosphere, particularly under the current circumstances and under the current Arab fragmentation. We discussed [words indistinct] Arab solidarity and Arab unity. We discussed [words indistinct] for Libya and Sudan to present a model of cooperation and solidarity to the Arab world. We will submit Sudan's model for (?all) the Arab states to emulate.

[Reporter] Thanks [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Arrest of Egyptian Community Leader Denounced

NC3103155293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1428 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 31 Mar (MENA)—Faruq Abu-'Isa, secretary general of the Arab Bar Association and former Sudanese foreign minister, has denounced the al-Bashir government's unjustifiable, reckless, and inhuman act of arresting the head of the Egyptian community in Sudan Bahjat al-Shurbaji. His release is conditional on the release of eight Sudanese nationals detained in Egypt on charges of involvement in recent terrorist incidents.

In a statement to MENA, Abu-'Isa said the Sudanese regime's act is part of its recurring violations of human rights that have been denounced by the UN General Assembly and the Human Rights Commission at its recent meeting in Geneva which appointed observers to follow up human rights conditions in Sudan.

He said that this and other measures reflect and reveal the Islamic Front and its leaders' grudge against Egypt and its fraternal people. He added that these measures also reflect and reveal the Sudanese regime's conspiracy with Iran and certain Israeli circles to shake security and stability in several Arab and African countries neighboring Sudan, foremost of which is Egypt.

He warned of the danger posed by terrorist operations the Sudanese regime is plotting against Egypt and other Arab states. He appealed to the Arab countries to take all preemptive measures against this regime's practices and pointed out the need to help the Sudanese opposition in confronting this regime, which is hostile to the Sudanese people.

Government Statement on Rebel Factional Fighting

EA3103144093 Khartoum SUNA in English 0926 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Khartoum, 31 Mar (SUNA)—The government spokesman for the peace talks, Dr 'Ali al-Haj [Muhammad] issued Tuesday [30 March] a statement on the escalation of fighting between the different factions of the outlaws' movement at Kongor and other areas in southern Sudan.

The statement declared Sudan Government's condemnation of the movement's irresponsible actions, stressing that the fighting between the factions will undermine the ongoing cease-fire and aggravate situation of the war-affected people in the south.

The statement said it is regretful that the fighting between the movement's factions has been claiming lives of hundreds of innocent civilians in the south daily in a time during which these factions are supposed to prepare themselves for the upcoming round of peace talks in Abuja, Nigeria.

The path of bloodshed and rashness being conducted by the mainstream of the outlaws' movement is conducive to aggravation of the innocent citizens' conditions and moreover proves that this mainstream (?is) irresponsible and not serious towards the attainment of a lasting peace, said the statement.

Through the statement, the government has clearly declared its condemnation over the irrational acts of the movement's leadership which had been hankering after personal gains and parochial whims.

The current fighting between the movement factions, the statement said, represents the only obstacle that confronts the flow of relief stuff to the needy population at the rebel-held areas. The government's statement went on, citing the following as examples which evidently reveal that the movement is opposed to the delivery of food and other relief materials to the war-affected people in the south.

The zone of the current fighting between the factions was the same area that the movement has earlier wanted as safe corridors.

Four international relief [workers] including a Norwegian journalist were earlier assassinated at an area within the current fighting zone. While each of the fighting factions accused the other of the killings, up to now it is not evident who was responsible for the crime.

Many relief agencies have halted their work in southern Sudan following the inconveniences and accusations directed against them by the movement's factions. It should be recalled that John Garang has accused some voluntary organisations of participating alongside the Nasir faction to overthrow him in August 1991.

Despite the agreement signed in September 1992 in Nairobi for securing delivery of relief materials to the needy people in the south, the Nasir group intercepted and looted a number of relief barges near Bor town.

It was the outlaws' movement which threatened to shoot down any relief plane en route to Juba between July and August 1992, a matter which necessitated sending the UN official envoy to negotiate the issue with the movement and to call for allowing the UN planes to land in Juba airport. Despite the agreement between the movement and the UN, the first side did not stop firing at the relief flights until the Armed Forces undertook protection of Juba airport and securing the surrounding area.

The irresponsible and barbaric acts of the outlaws' movement are deeply-rooted because it continued shooting down relief planes and declaring pride over that.

The government, therefore, firmly condemns the movement's rashness and irresponsible acts. The government also calls on the movement's factions to commit themselves to the cease-fire so that the voluntary organisations [can] be able to deliver relief materials to the needy citizens at the areas of the fighting.

The Sudan Government once again reiterates its commitment to the cease-fire and calls upon the international community and African presidents to pressure John Garang and the other factions of the movement so that they stop fighting immediately and prepare seriously for the upcoming peace talks.

Peace Delegation Prepares for Negotiations

EA0104212293 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, speaker of the Transitional National Assembly and leader of the government delegation to the peace negotiations, today at the Assembly chaired a meeting called by the Peace Committee to discuss preparations for the second round of Abuja negotiations. During the meeting, Mr. Khalifah confirmed that the government's preparations had been fully completed. He stressed the government's keenness that all the sides concerned with peace should participate in these negotiations so as to reach a just and lasting peace.

Dr. 'Ali al-Haj Muhammad, the official spokesman of the government delegation to the negotiations, briefed the participants in detail on the efforts made for peace, noting the contacts made with all the rebel factions. He also touched on the efforts made by African presidents in this respect.

The participants affirmed the efforts made by the government and stressed the need to send delegations from the southern states to brief the citizens on these efforts. The participants also condemned the ongoing conflict between the various rebel factions and emphasized the need to stop the fighting immediately.

Tunisia

President Ben Ali Leaves on Visit to Tripoli

LD0104133393 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Excerpts] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali left Tunis at 1300 this afternoon for Tripoli for a brotherly and working visit to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah at the invitation of Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September revolution. [passage omitted] The head of state is being accompanied by an official delegation including Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya.

Turkish Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit

LD0104151093 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin arrived in Tunis this morning for a three-day official visit at the invitation of his counterpart Habib Ben Yahya. The Turkish foreign minister stressed that Tunisia and Turkey were linked by deep-rooted fraternal relations. He said that during this visit he would be having talks with a number of Tunisian officials touching upon ways of strengthening bilateral relations, which he described as excellent.

The Turkish minister further said: We will be seeking to give a fresh momentum to our relations with Tunisia which we consider as one of the most important countries in North Africa, and with which we are linked by relations of cooperation in the context of the Islamic Conference Organization. In this respect, he affirmed the political determination of both Tunisia and Turkey to reinforce bilateral relations in various domains.

Holds Talks With Karoui

LD0104222693 Tunis RTT Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Prime Minister Hamed Karoui had talks this afternoon with Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin, who stated afterward that his meeting with the prime minister was very interesting and was an opportunity to examine bilateral relations as well as other international topics of mutual interest. The Turkish foreign minister asserted, furthermore, his satisfaction with the ever growing relations between the two countries, pointing out that such a development was the result of a joint political determination and it is based upon the good quality of the historical relations between Tunisia and Turkey.

Economic Agreements Signed With Poland

LD0104150893 Warsaw PAP in English 1357 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Tunis, April 1—Poland and Tunisia signed agreements on avoiding double taxation, support and protection for mutual investments during an official visit to Tunisia paid by Minister for Foreign Economic Relations Andrzej Arendarski on March 29-30. An agreement on cooperation between the National Economic Chamber and the Tunisian Union of Industry, Commerce and Craft was also signed.

Arendarski held talks with Tunisian Prime Minister Hamed Karoui, Minister of International Cooperation and Foreign Investment Mohamed Ghannouchi, and Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya. The talks focused on the state and prospects for Polish-Tunisian economic cooperation.

Saddam Addresses Dhi Qar Group, Stresses National Values

JN0104180293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1644 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Apr (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has said that Iraq is not to be worried about because it is a big country and its people are believers who will correct any deviation from the right path.

Speaking to 328 clerics, tribal chiefs, and notables from the southern Dhi Qar Governorate, his excellency stated that Iraq taught humanity the alphabet, and that both its people and the world know its history and that it can boast the most ancient civilization on earth.

When this land can boast the most ancient civilization and when it continues to survive, then the matter of a few years, not exceeding a decade, will hardly make a dent in the values for which it has stood throughout its history.

Those who fail to grasp the significance of these values, added his excellency, are the ones who are chasing a mirage. As for those who appreciate these values and rely on God, Iraq will not change.

Iraq must be understood from a historical and geographical perspective, as well as in terms of its values. Geography and history are unchanging and are well known, his excellency the president declared.

His excellency told the gathering: Your brothers and fellow citizens in northern Iraq now live in their consciences the moments you are now experiencing.

As for when this will actually happen, his excellency added, you will see that it will be in good time and, as a result, quite a few people will be surprised. I mean that Iraqis will be surprised by the change for the better, the president explained.

Commenting on a remark made by a member of the delegation about Palestine, his excellency said that Palestine is Arab, that it is home to Jerusalem, that the root will inevitably grow to be a tree that will, in turn, sprout branches, and that true to its nature, that branch cannot leave the tree.

When there are believers who persevere in their faith and are ever ready for sacrifice, changes will not turn facts upside down, nor will history change its course for anything but the better.

The clerics, tribal chiefs, and notables swore allegiance to his excellency and to Iraq's land, skies, and waters, as well as the principles preached by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and promoted by the glorious 17-30 July Revolution. They made a public pledge to God to remain steadfastly loyal to their leader and to follow his banner toward a dignified and bright future, and in the process, to remain prepared to make heavy sacrifices so that Iraq may remain united and free in the face of all covetous imperialist and Zionist aggressors. They also made a commitment not to allow in their midst any traitor to the homeland or foreign agent or evil criminal.

Opposition Reports Pamphlets Distributed in Cities

NC0104150793 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Anti-tyrant Saddam Husayn and antiregime pamphlets have been distributed in al-Najaf, Karbala', al-Kufah, 'Allawi, al-Hillah, and Baghdad. People in these cities said a lot of pamphlets were distributed, that the tyrant's authorities in these cities have placed all party and security forces on maximum alert, and that forces have been deployed to search people and arrest suspects. The outcast regime's authorities also surrounded holy places and detained a large number of visitors from various Iraqi governorates. The pamphlets contained appeals to the Iraqi people to close ranks to oust the remnants of the dilapidated regime. They also contained information about the crimes committed in southern Iraq and the deceptive information methods used by the regime's men and mercenaries to mislead the Iraqi people and consolidate the authority of the ruling criminal regime, led by dictator Saddam.

Rebel Radio Reports Regime Attacks in Marshlands

NC0104154593 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] According to Iraqi opposition sources, the tyrant's forces' long-range large-caliber artillery last week shelled (al-Shinaf), (al-Hayadir), and (al-Ghanziri) in the al-Basrah marshlands in southern Iraq. The sources said the shelling, which lasted for two days, caused heavy loss of life and property in these areas, which have been under economic siege for more than 18 months. The sources noted that fires broke out in homes and that more than 10 civilians were killed or wounded.

Meanwhile, sources said that military concentrations of infantry and armored forces are currently deployed around the al-Basrah marshlands in the al-Qurnah and al-Madinah districts, raising fears that the tyrant's forces will carry out operations in the area in the coming few days.

Arab Rulers Who Trust U.S. Promises Ridiculed

JN0104133393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0657 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH ridicules the Arab leaders who have continued to trust U.S. promises regarding the Palestine question.

In an article published today entitled "Constants and Variables in the Course of Aggression," AL-QADISIYAH, speaking for the Ministry of Defense, adds that some Arab leaders are suffering from political

shortsightedness and harboring steadily growing delusions, forgetting the results of previous experiences with the United States and the Zionist entity.

The paper affirms that the security of the Zionist entity and that of the United States constitute an indivisible whole. The paper further states that this is one of the constant principles that has governed the policies and conduct of all U.S. administrations since this distorted entity came into being in the heart of the Arab homeland.

AL-QADISIYAH adds that the anti-Iraq military aggression and conspiracies as well as the unfair embargo imposed on the country have all taken place because Iraq acted in defiance of these constants and bared the facts regarding the objectives of this suspicious alliance, which are diametrically opposed to the nation's goals, principles, and values.

The paper maintains that the accusations and falsehoods Washington, London, and Riyadh are leveling against Iraq are futile and absurd pretexts for perpetuating the anti-Iraq aggression at a time when other countries in the Arab region and outside that region are committing violations that are far graver than those of which Iraq is accused. While all this is taking place, Washington has failed to lift a finger. Worse still, AL-QADISIYAH argues, no UN-affiliated agency has ever entertained the idea of singling out such countries for accountability.

AL-QADISIYAH asserts that Iran is currently in possession of all types of weapons and equipment, the acquisition [by Iraq] of a small quantity of which is decreed by the United Nations to be prohibited. Besides, the racist South African regime possesses more than 80 nuclear warheads, not to mention other types of sophisticated missiles and armament. The paper affirms that these regimes are allowed to be outside the realm of accountability because they do not pose any dangers to the Zionist entity.

The paper adds: Security for Israel is the only thing deemed important by the authors of the so-called new world order. Anything other than this is deemed secondary and insignificant by those who are currently banning the shipment of lead pencils to Iraq, because these pencils might contain "enriched uranium." These people have chosen to turn a blind eye to the arms deals concluded by Iran, which are far greater than the deals struck by the Gulf hirelings and the Riyadh rulers.

Concluding its article, the paper says: The UN Security Council, the authors of the so-called new world order, and the capitals of the aggression states must realize that the Zionist entity is merely an artificial entity planted in the heart of the Arab homeland, and that suspicious deals and suspicious relations cannot remain forever as long as there are noble Arabs with genuine consciences who believe in this premise, which cannot be covered with a sieve. As for the rulers of Tehran, Riyadh, and Cairo, they are all bound to go.

Paper Reacts to Recent Velayati Statement on Ties

JN0104115093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH urges the Iranian rulers to prove the sincerity of their purported desire for normal and friendly ties with Iraq.

In a commentary published today on the recent statements made by the Iranian foreign minister, the paper says that Velayati's regime, which is responsible for the deterioration in relations between Iraq and Iran, is required to prove by deeds rather than words that it wants friendly ties with Iraq.

'Ali Akbar Velayati has recently made a statement to reporters, saying that Iraq is responsible for the problems hindering the normalization of ties between Tehran and Baghdad.

AL-THAWRAH denies that Iraq has ever been, at any stage of the Baghdad-Tehran dispute, responsible for the deterioration in relations between the two countries. The paper wonders how Iraq can be held responsible for the deterioration in ties between the two countries when it launched several serious and responsible initiatives aimed at normalizing Iraqi-Iranian ties and improving them.

The paper stresses that Tehran is responsible for frustrating all the efforts made to normalize ties and reach an agreement on Iraqi peace initiatives. The paper adds that the Iranian regime consistently sought to thwart these initiatives and failed to respond to them favorably.

AL-THAWRAH provides ample evidence showing Iran's role in escalating the anti-Iraq stance, contending that Iraq has never dealt a treacherous blow to Iran or to any other foreign country, for that matter. It is Iran, the paper adds, which dealt a treacherous blow to Iraq during the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression.

The paper notes that one of the problems contributing to this deterioration in Iraqi-Iranian ties is the prisoners of war [POW] issue. It says that Iraq does not hold a single Iranian POW captive, whereas Iran continues to hold tens of thousands of Iraqi POW's in captivity. Iran has refused to release them even though they are registered with the International Committee of the Red Cross, the paper maintains.

The paper underscores Iraq's respect for Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity, saying that no Iraqi official has ever stated that Iraq covets Iranian territory, or any other foreign territory, for that matter. However, Iranian officials deem themselves custodians over the Iraqi people and allow themselves to interfere in their domestic affairs.

The paper recalls the acts of sabotage and subversion to which Iraq was exposed in early 1991, saying that Iranian officials have continued to push infiltrators from inside Iran into Iraqi territory to carry out acts of subversion and sabotage.

Rabin on Gaza-First Plan, Closure of Territories

TA0104183293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated this evening that the way to attain peace is by dealing with terror and by making concessions in the negotiations, rather than running away unilaterally. Referring to the closure of the territories, Rabin said we now have a chance to increase the number of Israeli workers in various fields without harming the livelihood of the inhabitants of the territories. The prime minister was addressing Labor party members, and our correspondent Ilan Lazarovich reports:

Referring to the Gaza-first plan being discussed this evening by Meretz's Citizens Rights Movement faction, Prime Minister Rabin said that peace can be attained through concessions in negotiations rather than running away unilaterally, given that this government's approach is not to annex territory and, at the same time, not to go back to the 1967 borders either. This must be coupled with fighting terror, Rabin said. He added that terror has escalated throughout the Arab world in efforts to terminate the peace negotiations. What we must do is to increase our security, Rabin said, and that is why we have recently taken measures aimed at separating the two populations.

Referring to the closure, the prime minister said that being a welfare state we experience so-called deluxe unemployment. We now have a chance to increase the ratio of Israeli workers in various fields without infringing on the rights of the inhabitants of the territories to make a living. Rabin cited as an example the fact that at present over half the workers in the construction business—70,000 men—are inhabitants of the territories.

Rabin said he hopes the Western world and Europe invest in the territories and enable its inhabitants to work in their countries. For us, this is an opportunity to be less dependent on them, he noted.

Rabin concluded his speech by saying that we are going through a period which is fraught with both prospects and risks, and that we can come out of it successfully.

EC Delegation Holds Talks With Top Officials

Persuasion of Palestinians Refused

TA0104200293 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this evening rejected the EC ministers' request to adopt confidence-building measures to persuade the Palestinians to return to the negotiating table. Rabin told them he will not buy the Palestinians with gestures at a time when there is so much terror.

The EC delegation, made up of senior representatives of the EC Presidency, arrived in Israel today at the end of a brief tour of the Middle East. A short time ago, the delegation ended a meeting with the prime minister, cabinet ministers, and other senior Israeli officials. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports:

[Begin recording] [Sukenik] The EC troika set out on a very brief tour of the capitals of Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Israel in a bid to maintain the EC's involvement in the peace process. The Arabs encourage the Europeans to get involved, while Rabin—who thinks the Europeans mainly help the Arabs—openly opposes such involvement, and has occasionally been quite blunt about it.

Upon their arrival in Israel, the EC officials met with the leaders of the Palestinians and tonight they conferred with Rabin and other senior Israeli officials. They talked at length about the economic problems between Israel and the EC, but the most important and most tender issue was the peace talks and the hesitation of the Arabs—mainly the Palestinians—to return to the negotiations. The European ministers were impressed that if the sides do not go back to the peace talks the entire process might go down the drain.

[Danish Foreign Minister Niels Petersen, in English] We are here as the European Community, not because we have a role in the bilaterals. We don't see a role for us in the bilateral talks; we see a role for Europe—and an important one—in the multilateral talks.

[Sukenik] The visitors proposed to Rabin to adopt confidence- building measures toward the Palestinians, but the prime minister refused. He told them: I worry about the security of Israel's citizens. First, let the Palestinians return to the negotiations.

[Petersen, in English] My main impression is that there is an undercurrent—I'll say a strong undercurrent—of realism and will to negotiate. This is my impression: that the Arab states are indeed willing to negotiate; I think they want to. It is also true that on the part of the Palestinians there are very many reservations and they see obstacles to the resumption of negotiations. These, I think, should be done away with. It is important that the peace process could start again. [end recording]

Rabin on Self-Rule Elections

TA0204075793 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 2 Apr 93 p 8

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is willing to propose general elections to the Palestinian self-administration council, to be held within eight months.

Rabin disclosed this fact in a meeting with the visiting EC troika at his Defense Ministry office in Tel Aviv last night.

From Rabin's standpoint, the proposal constitutes a significant shift: He has insisted until recently that an

Israeli-Palestinian agreement on the nature of self-administration was a precondition for elections in the territories.

Now Rabin is willing to offer the Palestinians elections, which are to be held within a very short time, to a body that will manage their affairs. Rabin hopes that if negotiations with the Palestinians are resumed, an agreement on the powers of the self- administration council will be attainable within eight months.

EC Commissioner Comments on Talks

TA0204060793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Interview with Hans van den Broek, EC commissioner for foreign affairs, by Steve Linde in Jerusalem on 1 April—recorded]

[Text] [Van den Broek] May I say that we are broadly investing in peace in various ways. We are reviewing our cooperation with Israel, envisaging stronger economic ties, closer cooperation. Those talks are going on. We are investing heavily as far as our role in the so-called multilateral talks, which you know are being held in conjunction with the peace talks. We are convinced that peace alone is not enough to create stability and that the region as such will have to shape its common destiny by close cooperation. We are trying to prepare in all the working groups in which we are participating, trying to prepare for that and urging also other Arab states like Syria and Lebanon to participate in this preparation for this common destiny.

[Linde] Do you believe the Arab governments and particularly the Palestinians will attend the peace talks in Washington?

[Van den Broek] Well, one thing I am convinced of after the talks we have had, and that is that they wish to do so, but there are of course dilemmas. There remains this very difficult question for them about the deportees, and not so much, I would say, because of personal sympathy towards a movement like Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. I don't think really that is the issue. But what they do feel very strongly about is that there is a Security Council resolution which clearly says what has to be done, and they feel that if they accept going to the negotiating table without any kind of solution herein, that they suggest that for them Security Council resolutions are not that valid. That dilemma has to be overcome, and I hope that the consultations that are taking place between Israel and the Americans and with other Arab partners and Palestinians will eventually produce that solution.

Results of Talks Detailed

TA0204102693 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 2 Apr 93 p 1

[Report by Hemi Shalev and Mikhal Sela']

[Text] The Arab countries will not attend the peace talks without the Palestinians, who still regard the deportations as an "obstacle" to their participation in the talks. This was reported yesterday by the European troika ministers at the conclusion of their Middle East talks. Yet political sources in Jerusalem last night voiced their utter confidence that the Palestinians will return to the negotiating table, noting that a decision to that effect has already been made and that the Palestinians have advised the United States accordingly.

The European ministers reported that the Arab countries are genuinely interested in promoting the process. The European delegation, headed by Danish Foreign Minister Niels Petersen, asked Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin for Israeli "confidence-building measures" toward the Palestinians, but Rabin replied that Israel is waging a war on terrorism and violence and, therefore, this is not the right time for gestures toward the Palestinians.

The ministers reported that Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' had told them that the Arab public's opposition to the continuation of the peace talks makes a "coordinated Arab stand" necessary. According to the Europeans, Syria adheres to its stand that it will not discuss the "nature of peace" with Israel as long as Israel does not unequivocally declare its readiness to withdraw from the Golan Heights.

The ministers told al-Shar' that in view of the fact that the peace process is under way, there is incongruity in the Syrian refusal to participate in the multilateral talks. Al-Shar' replied that Syria's joining the multilateral talks at this time would be incongruous in view of the critical condition of the peace process. He added that Syria has no intention of joining these talks or of reducing its support for the Arab boycott at this stage.

The Palestinians, with whom the troika ministers met both in Amman and Jerusalem, did not reply to the question of whether they will attend the peace talks. They complained about the deteriorating state of human rights in the territories, including the recently imposed closure.

In a meeting with Palestinian delegates yesterday afternoon, the Europeans said that it was in the Palestinians' own interest to arrive in Washington on time, because as far as they had learned from positions pursued by the Arab countries and the Israeli Government, the participants in the next encounter will witness considerable progress in the Israeli stands in a manner that will meet Palestinian expectations.

Referring to the closure on the territories and the daily acts of violence, the troika ministers said the Palestinian leadership cannot escape responsibility for the situation. They further said that despite the unique economic difficulties created by the prolonged closure, the Palestinians will not receive emergency aid. They reiterated the EC stand that aid toward economic development in the Middle East depends on progress in the peace process.

The Europeans promised to raise the human rights issue with Israel but stated at the same time that the Palestinians must take action against terrorism and violence and announce as soon as possible their readiness to resume the political process. They refused the Palestinians' request to discuss the nature of the ongoing Palestinian contacts with the Americans, noting that they do not wish to intervene in that issue.

Rabin, who met the troika ministers at his Defense Ministry bureau in Tel Aviv, was described by meeting participants as calm and relaxed. He did not attack the Europeans as he has on several occasions in the past. Rabin noted, however, that the Europeans failed to keep their promise, made during the Gulf war, to invest tens of millions of dollars in the territories. He called for vigorous EC action on this matter, which, he said, would help create jobs.

Major General Dani Rothschild, the coordinator of government activities in the territories, acquainted the visitors with Israel's plans for territories development, noting that by means of economic development, Israel hopes to achieve "greater separation" between the Palestinian and Israeli populations.

The Israeli side to the talks with the Europeans put an emphasis on bilateral Israeli-European issues. Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, who attended the meeting at the defense minister's bureau, requested that the negotiations on amending Israeli-EC economic agreements be expedited, while Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin asked that Europe drop its objection to the inclusion of Israel in the "West European and Other" category in the United Nations and the Chemical Nonproliferation Treaty institutions.

Rabin asked the Europeans to invest efforts in promoting the multilateral talks in order to help Middle East nations understand the advantages of peace. Petersen said that Europe is aware of its limited role in the peace talks, while Beilin, speaking at a dinner he hosted in Jerusalem, called for greater European involvement in the process.

This morning, the ministers and their entourage will hold a working meeting with Beilin and top Foreign Ministry echelons, after which a news conference will be held at the ministry. They will return to their capitals in the afternoon.

As for Palestinian-U.S. contacts, DAVAR has been told by Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesman for the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, that "the talks were thorough and serious. The Americans took a serious view of our difficulties and problems, and they briefed us extensively on Prime Minister Rabin's talks in Washington."

'Ashrawi offered no other details, but said that there is room for optimism and that diplomatic contacts are being held continuously. The Palestinians are still unresolved with regard to their participation in the next round of talks, but recent developments seem to indicate that they will be there.

Delegation Concludes Visit

TA0204105893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] The European troika today completed their visit to Israel with a final round of talks with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin. At a news conference in Jerusalem, the European ministers again expressed their belief that all parties to the Middle East conflict would attend the bilateral talks in Washington on the 20th of April. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] This morning's discussion went on longer than scheduled. It was devoted mainly to the matters in which the Europeans are directly involved: the multilateral talks, Israel's relations with the Community, legislation against the Arab boycott, and so on. Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin said the Europeans do play a useful role in the bilateral negotiations, too, by carrying messages between the parties, and this was stressed also by the chairman of the troika, Denmark's Foreign Minister Niels Petersen:

[Petersen] We think we are playing a constructive role in the process by listening, by representing also reason, moderation, and being able to speak to both sides of the conflict. That in itself is of value to the whole peace process.

[Katzenell] The European commissioner for foreign affairs, Hans van den Broek, said he was confident that the Palestinians and the Arab governments would attend the bilateral talks on the 20th. Niels Petersen said there was an undercurrent of realism on the Arab side. I asked Petersen about the sharp exchange which he had last night with Prime Minister Rabin over the 400 expelled Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists, when Rabin made it clear that there would be no more gestures towards the Palestinians before the talks on the 20th of April. Petersen said there is no mystery about it; Europe has regarded the expulsion as illegal from the beginning. Asked about the closure of the territories and the other measures taken by the Army, Yosi Beilin did not agree with the Palestinians that they pose a new obstacle to the resumption of the negotiations:

[Beilin] Well, I cannot accept it. I do not see the closure as a collective punishment but the other way around. I do see the closure as a possibility, a very temporary one, to cool the temperature and to create a situation where there are no assassinations and no violent activities on the background of the negotiations. I hope that after what happened in the last weeks, this closure will contribute to the pacification of the area and will be conducive to the talks themselves. [end recording]

Netanyahu: Likud To Back Government if Policy Changed

TA0104181293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu has said that his party will back the government if it takes forceful action against terror, but will not join an emergency government as long as it pursues its current policy.

In an urgent session of the Likud Knesset faction, Knesset Member [MK] Netanyahu said the Likud is also prepared to back law amendments concerning house demolitions and deportation procedures. He criticized the government's latest moves, saying they are tantamount to putting a thin plastic lid on a boiling pot. He added that the closure of the territories is politically dangerous because it demarcates future border lines.

Our correspondent Ron Nesi'el points out that MK's David Levi and Binyamin Begin did not attend the session.

Police Commissioner Sets Up New Security Forum

TA0204050493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Security forces are stepping up their efforts in preparation for the Passover holiday next week. Qol Yisra'el's military affairs reporter says there are fears of terrorist attacks despite the closure of the territories. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has also increased its alertness along Israel's borders, particularly the northern border.

The new commissioner of police, Rafi Peled, has decided to establish a police forum on security matters. The forum, which will comprise all commanders in the police force, is to meet for the first time on Sunday. Inspector General Peled said it will discuss the measures needed to step up internal security.

French Weekly on Angolan Military Purchases in Israel

TA0204100793 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 2 Apr 93 p 7

[Report by Paris-based correspondent Shlomo Papierblatt]

[Text] The Israeli Galil assault rifles are replacing the Soviet small arms of the Angolan forces. This is reported by the Paris weekly ACTUALITE JUIVE, based on African sources.

The weekly claims these are the first results of the growing cooperation between Israel and Angola. The weekly also reports on the recent visit of an Angolan delegation to Jerusalem, headed by Antonio dos Santos Franca, the representative of the Angolan Government.

The delegation members expressed the desire to purchase "Israeli high-tech products" and also evinced great interest in various military items.

PLO's 'Abd-Rabbuh Makes Statement in Beirut

NC0104140093 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, chairman of the PLO's Information Department, traveling from Amman to Tunis, stopped at Beirut Airport at noon today to meet with PLO officials in Lebanon. In remarks to the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY, 'Abd-Rabbuh described the recent Israeli measures in the West Bank and Gaza as the most serious link in a scheme of violence and terrorism intended to completely encircle and isolate the occupied territories, lay a prolonged economic siege on them, and starve them to quench the resurgent intifadah flame. He added that the Palestinians can survive the economic siege, the starvation drive, and the extensive and vicious repression. He announced that the battle is now open on all fronts.

'Abd-Rabbuh also stressed that the deportees must be allowed to return according to a swift timetable, noting that failing to resolve this issue poses a major obstacle to the resumption of the peace negotiations.

He also said he does not believe there will not any future trouble regarding the Palestinian presence in Lebanon.

Vatican Proposes International Care of Jerusalem

NC0104190393 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 29 Mar 93 pp 1, 11

[Excerpts] Monsignor Jean Louis Tauran, the Vatican's secretary for relations with states, carried to Lebanese officials a message calling for coexistence and reconciliation and a proposal drafted by international experts to place east Jerusalem under international supervision. [passage omitted]

AL-SAFIR has learned that Tauran's tour of the region is primarily aimed at "reassuring" the Arabs participating in the peace negotiations that the Vatican's negotiations with Israel for bilateral relations will not make it "lose its impartiality". On the contrary, it may be a positive factor, turning the Vatican into a mediator between the Arabs and Israel.

Tauran will also present a proposal on the future of Jerusalem based on the pope's call 15 years ago that the city be placed under international supervision.

AL-SAFIR learned that the Vatican has no ambitions of deciding the political future of west Jerusalem, "which must be discussed at the negotiating table." It also learned that Egypt reacted favorably to the Vatican proposal, while King Hassan II of Morocco did not comment on it because "the Jerusalem Committee," which he chairs, has already made proposals on the future of the occupied city. [passage omitted]

Al-Hirawi Returns From UAE Visit, Comments

NC0104183693 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi returned to Beirut a short time ago. On the line is our correspondent Sa'd Ilyas:

[Begin relay] Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi arrived at the Provisional Presidential Office in al-Ramlah al-Bayda' from the United Arab Emirates [UAE] a few minutes ago, concluding an official visit to Kuwait and the UAE.

The Media Branch of the Presidential Office General Directorate issued an official statement a short time ago on the president's visit to the UAE. Here is the text: His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi returned to Beirut this evening, ending a visit to the UAE in response to an invitation from his brother Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

His excellency held meetings with his highness Shaykh Zayid, Heir Apparent Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, and senior officials. The president reviewed with them the situation in the Arab Gulf and the Middle East and bilateral relations.

The statement added: President al-Hirawi briefed his hosts on the stable situation in Lebanon and development and reconstruction requirements in a positive atmosphere. The president thanked the UAE president and officials for looking after the Lebanese community, wishing them continued success and prosperity. [end relay]

Upon his return, the president announced that UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan told him that what is good for Lebanon is good for the UAE, that what concerns Lebanon concerns the UAE, and that he wants to see security and reconstruction in Lebanon. Shaykh Zayid said he is happy with the situation in Lebanon and stressed the need for tolerance among the Lebanese people. He noted that no Arab country will rest if Lebanon does not rest.

Shaykh Zayid called on President al-Hirawi in his suite at al-Mushrif guest palace despite his ailment which did not allow him to receive the president at the airport yesterday. At their meeting, President al-Hirawi briefed Shaykh Zayid on the political and security situation in Lebanon, the government's economic development plan, and preparations and studies to restore the war- torn infrastructure. The UAE president expressed every readiness to help Lebanon and said: Cooperation with Lebanon is just like our cooperation with our people in the UAE itself. We will spare no effort for Lebanon.

In addition, Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul and Information Minister Michel Samahah have held a series of meetings at al-Mushrif Palace with a number of UAE officials. The discussions focusing on various means of cooperation. Minister Dallul handed the UAE officials a study on the Lebanese Army status. The UAE officials

showed a special concern in the study and interest in supporting and reinforcing the army. Minister Samahah and his UAE counterpart continued talks to prepare for a media protocol for technical cooperation and media programs between the two ministries.

Foreign Minister Buwayz Departs for Qatar, China

NC0104173593 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz left Beirut today for Qatar on first leg of a tour that will take him to China. In a statement at the airport, Buwayz said his talks in Qatar will deal with closing Arab ranks and strengthening Lebanese-Qatari relations.

Regarding his visit to China, Buwayz said that political, economic, and cultural issues will be discussed, adding that China maintains firm and clear positions in support of the Arab issues, particularly in support of Lebanon and Resolution 425.

U.S. 'Lack of Interest' in Lebanon, Territories

NC0204104593 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 29 Mar 93 p 3

[Article by Bilal Shararah: "Exaggerated or Realistic Assessment of Forthcoming Developments? The South Is a Field for Exhausting the Powers of the Participants in the Peace Talks"]

[Excerpt] Political circles in Lebanon and the region are worried and skeptical about the apparent U.S. lack of interest in the developments in southern Lebanon and the occupied Arab territories. Even though the American media are highlighting events in both regions, Washington is not making any official comments. In the past, whenever similar developments emerged, the United States would rush to make contacts and issue statements expressing concern and urging self-restraint.

The political circles recall past statements by U.S. State Department Spokesman Richard Boucher about events similar in form and content to what is happening in southern Lebanon today. Reports from the U.S. State Department would point out U.S. contacts with Israel, Syria, and Lebanon over violence in southern Lebanon.

The circles note that Boucher's statement would normally include "a call on the concerned parties to exercise self-restraint to allow an end to the violence," along with a remark that "southern Lebanon continues to be a dangerous and unstable region constantly dominated by tragic violence."

Likewise, the serious escalation of Israeli oppression against the mounting Palestinian intifadah in the occupied territories did not draw an American reaction. This even though Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin cut short his visit to the United States to face intifadah developments, especially on the eve of 'Id al-Fitr (as was announced). What is the true reason for the absence of a U.S. position and for Rabin's quick return?

Political experts have expressed their fear that the United States may have given Rabin some margin for movement in southern Lebanon and inside the occupied Arab territories to quell the resistance in the south and the intifadah in the occupied territories.

They note correspondent reports and main news broadcasts by the Arabic service of the Voice of America focus on developments in southern Lebanon and the occupied Arab territories—so much so that they are given prominence over the power struggle in Russia, the dispatch of nuclear-powered aircraft carrier to the Gulf, and the "humanitarian" airdrop over Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The experts, which monitor Israeli moves, note that Rabin's government has increased security and military activity in the occupied Arab territories while increasingly expanding air control of southern Lebanon, using warplanes in its military operations against what it describes as resistance bases. Israel had reduced its reliance on warplanes, increasingly depending on helicopters in attacking what it considers to be "hostile targets."

The sources fear that Israel, taking maximum advantage of "U.S. concern that the Iran-backed Hizballah remains armed and active on Lebanese territories"—as previous U.S. statements put it—may be in the process of taking steps of a military nature regarding southern Lebanon with a view to placing the upcoming round of the peace talks with a new reality.

The sources monitored with anxiety a report that Israeli Chief of Staff General Ehud Baraq canceled his scheduled tour of Japan and other East Asian nations after consultations with Yitzhaq Rabin, Israel's prime minister and defense minister. Israel radio cited its military correspondent that "General Baraq does not believe it is appropriate for him to travel abroad these days." The correspondent noted that "General Baraq is the first Israeli chief of staff to receive an official invitation to visit Japan." The experts, therefore, wonder what kind of assignment Baraq has to warrant cancellation of such an important visit. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister on Army's Internal Security Role

PM0104142193 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 2 Apr 93 p 21

[Interview with Lebanese National Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul by Raja' Kammuni in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Kammuni] Let us begin with the recent hot issues in the south. The arms stores of all parties have been stormed without much uproar, but what is the cause of what happened in Sidon and what is the defense ministry's explanation?

[Dallul] The army carries out the instructions of the political leadership. The decision to search for arms and storm the various areas was made by that leadership. That has upset some individuals, but there have been many rumors about what happened in Sidon. Perhaps a third party tried to interfere, but one should not be unfair to the army. If a mistake was committed we would punish those responsible, but exaggeration of the events is rejected.

[Kammuni] What do you mean by "if a mistake was committed?"

[Dallul] After 17 years of war, some people do not easily accept the official military authority and its role. That is why we expect some exaggerated reactions, but we would not tolerate military indiscipline if it occurs.

[Kammuni] Were you notified of any problems?

[Dallul] I have only been informed that there were no incidents or violations attributable to the army. We have formed a committee to investigate the rumors about violations and we are awaiting the results of the investigations. The army will continue its storming operations until the political leadership decides otherwise.

[Kammuni] But Deputy Mustafa Sa'd has stressed that the confiscated arms were licensed.

[Dallul] The Lebanese Army will return the licensed weapons to any of the parties, but the weapons confiscated in Sidon were not licensed. [passage omitted]

[Kammuni] Is there anything new regarding aid and provisions for the Lebanese Army?

[Dallul] The material means available for the rehabilitation and improvement of the military establishment are really limited, but the army command has drawn up a sound and well-studied plan to maintain the standard of the military establishment. We are not making progress as fast as we would like to, but we are making progress. There is nothing new regarding provisions, but the dispatch of training missions abroad and the procurement of the necessary equipment are continuing through the command's wisdom and within the current budget.

[Kammuni] How long will the army continue to play the part of security forces on the capital's streets?

[Dallul] The army was deployed in the capital in implementation of a political decision. The leadership of course prefers its soldiers to remain in their barracks so that they could play a bigger and more effective role on the borders with Israel. We have asked the ministers to fund and modernize the internal security forces organs. That is now in progress. Once they are well equipped, the army would return to its barracks within hours.

[Kammuni] Will that take months?

[Dallul] Less, actually. We expect the internal security forces to be ready so that the army would go back to its camps to resume its training.

Two SLA Soldiers Killed in Security Zone 1 Apr

TA0104180593 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Two SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldiers were killed and another was slightly injured when an explosive charge went off in south Lebanon today. The bomb exploded near an SLA unit which was carrying out operational activities in the central sector of the security zone.

Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz reports that simultaneously, small arms fire was directed at an SLA position in the area. IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA troops returned fire.

Islamic Resistance Claims Attack

NC0204062493 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] The Islamic Resistance operations room reports that the Arnun Martyrs Group detonated a powerful bomb as a 13-member foot patrol of Lahdist agents [South Lebanese Army, SLA] passed on a road near al-Qanatarah yesterday. All the patrol members were killed or wounded. Immediately afterward, the Zionist enemy carried out frenzied shelling of the villages of Majdal Silm, Qabrikha, and Tulin from positions in al-Tayyibah, al-Qantarah, and Tallusah.

The Islamic Resistance returned fire with the appropriate weapons.

Talks Held With Lebanese Government Delegation

JN0104165193 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1455 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Damascus, 1 Apr (SANA)—A session of official talks was held at 1300 today between a Syrian delegation under Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, and a Lebanese delegation led by Minister of Agriculture Dr. 'Adil Qirtas.

The Syrian team comprised Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; Finance Minister Dr. Muhammad Khalid al-Mahayini; As'ad Mustafa, agriculture and agrarian reform minister; Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahim Subay'i, minister of state for planning affairs; and the customs director general.

The Lebanese side comprised Industry and Oil Minister Dr. As'ad Rizq, Economy and Trade Minister Hagoq Demerdjian, and the customs director general.

Talks during the meeting dealt with economic relations between the two fraternal countries. The conferees conducted a comprehensive review of the cooperative relations in the fields of agriculture, industry, energy, trade, and other issues, which help to consolidate and entrench bilateral relations in the interest of both countries.

The conferees also discussed several aspects of their economic cooperation and ways of achieving broader cooperation in accordance with these relations, which would benefit both fraternal countries and peoples. It was agreed to continue discussing the details of cooperation between the concerned ministries and parties in the two countries.

Interior Minister Meets With Iranian Counterpart

JN0104172993 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1505 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Damascus, 1 Apr (SANA)—Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah received Iranian Interior Minister 'Abdollah Nuri-Hoseynabadi at noon today. The meeting was attended by Major General Salah-al-Din Dabbagh, assistant to the interior minister; Major General Ahmad Sa'id al-Salih, assistant to the interior minister; Major General Muhammad Mahfuz Kayyali, director of the Immigration and Passports Department; the colonel director of the Interior Ministry's Public Relations Office; and the Iranian charge d'affaires in Damascus.

During their meeting, the officials reviewed the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries and ways of promoting them in all fields, particularly in the areas of security cooperation and the fight against crime. Dr. Harbah stressed Syria's concern, under President Hafiz al-Asad, for promoting and bolstering relations of cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran, out of the principled constants of our policy and trends.

After the meeting, Harbah gave a detailed explanation of his ministry's work and the new plans and laws implemented, pointing to the law on the fight against drugs, which the People's Assembly passed yesterday, and its importance in fighting this phenomenon, which poses a danger to mankind.

For his part, the Iranian interior minister thanked and voiced his appreciation to Dr. Harbah for holding this meeting, expressing pleasure over his visit to Syria. He also lauded the cooperation between Syria and Iran, wishing Syria further success and achievements.

The guest minister arrived in Damascus last night on a private visit to Syria. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Maj. Gen. Salah-al-Din Dabbagh, assistant to the interior minister; a number of senior police officers; and the Iranian charge d'affaires in Damascus accompanied by embassy staff.

Iranian Interior Minister Departs

JN0104181493 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1650 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Damascus, 1 Apr (SANA)—Iranian Interior Minister 'Abdollah Nuri-Hoseynabadi left Damascus this evening following a private two-day visit to Syria. [passage omitted]

Vice President Talks With Vatican Official

JN0104192193 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Monsignor Jean Louis Tauran, the Vatican's secretary for relations with states, at 1800 today. Talks dealt with the current international and regional situation, and the steps which Lebanon has made on the path of national accord and peace.

Vatican Official Ends Visit

JN0204123693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Monsignor Jean Louis Tauran, Vatican secretary for relations with states, left Damascus today after a three-day visit to Syria. He was seen off at the Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', a number of senior ministry officials, and the Vatican charge d'affaires in Damascus.

Afghanistan

Government, Hezb-e Wahdat Sign Peace Agreement

LD0204104593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] An eight-point peace agreement has been signed between the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan] and the Afghan Government through the efforts and mediation of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Our country's charge d'affaires to Kabul spoke to the Voice and Vision correspondent and announced the following:

The peace agreement, which was signed after a month-long effort, proposes the establishment of two joint commissions, one to supervise the cease-fire and one to oversee the full implementation of the contents of the agreement.

He noted that members of the cease-fire supervisory commission have been stationed for some time on the hills overlooking the positions of the two sides. Fortunately, since then no exchanges of fire have taken place between the Hezb-e Wahdat and government forces. There have only some aggressive actions by Sayyaf's Hezb-e Ettehad [Islamic Union of Afghanistan] against the positions of the Hezb-e Wahdat and residential areas, which have been responded to.

According to the report, the unconditional release of captives within one week, the monitoring of the situation of martyrs in the Afshar region of Kabul and other regions, and the dignified return of refugees and the homeless to their homes are among the issues covered in the peace agreement between the Hezb-e Wahdat and the Afghan Government. Our correspondent's report adds that the full contents of the agreement came into force yesterday after the peace agreement was formally signed.

The first reslut of the peace agreement was the release of eight Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami captives, who were handed over to the Islamic Republic of Iran's Embassy in Kabul. The rest of the captives, around 1,000 of them in all, are expected to be released within the next few days.

Agreement Detailed

LD0104164993 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

Announcement by the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA]: To eliminate misunderstanding, establish a cease-fire and solve problems, the following matters were agreed upon between the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party] and the Islamic State of Afghanistan:

1. The formation of a joint commission to observe the cease-fire and consolidate it.

2. The unconditional release of prisoners.

3. Assessing the conditions of martyrs.

4. The honorable return of all refugees.

5. Assessing damages inflicted in areas of war and financial help to inhabitants of those regions.

6. Free movement of the people.

7. Maintaining the security of those people who return to their homes.

8. Formation of a joint commission to supervise the implementation of the above articles.

Rabbani Message on Farmers Day Broadcast

LD0204100393 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1530 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Message from President Borhanoddin Rabbani on the occasion of Farmers Day—read by Mohammad Ibrahim Warseji, "head of international relations for the Islamic State of Afghanistan"]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With unlimited thanks to the merciful God we mark the auspicious Day of the Farmer at a time when the shameful colonial domination of the last remnants of a regime which has been left behind by colonialism has been put to an end and when an Islamic regime has been installed in the afflicted and hero-loving nation of the Islamic Afghanistan.

A new and bright page in the history of our dear country and the establishment of the new, independent, progressive, and prosperous Afghanistan have started with the success of the Islamic revolution, which has put a great religious and historic responsibility on the shoulders of all strata of the society, especially dear farmers.

Our Afghanistan is an agricultural country, with more than 80 percent of our people involved in farming and husbandry and our economy relying more on agriculture. The infrastructure of society was destroyed during the 14 years of war against the occupying forces of the former Soviet Union and the regime created by it. Our country's irrigation and agricultural system has also been ruined. Although agriculture has not been mechanized in our country, it has been able to meet some of our people's needs and to reduce our dependence on the outside world.

In today's world, the development of agricultural technology, the mechanization of agricultural systems, and self-reliance in the agricultural industry are considered power. Countries that can supply their people with enough food can reduce dependence on foreigners, defend their independence and national sovereignty in the best way, and rid themselves of pressure from foreign countries.

It has practically been seen in the new international political system that the countries with an upper hand in agricultural technology and the food industry have put countries which are backward in this respect under pressure. They use bread as a political weapon for the realization of their political aims. The capitalist countries' exploitation of wheat as an instrument of foreign policy against the late communist bloc and a large portion of the Third World attests to this statement. Governments are trying to develop industry, commerce, agriculture, and the exploitation of natural resources in parallel with each other to lead their countries toward a tranquil life and self-reliance.

Cultural, educational, technological, and specialized and vocational know-how can easily implement this strategy of development in these fields. Policies that ignore agriculture in the name of industrialization and policies that rely on agriculture but ignore industry have led to economic dependence and the crisis of unbalanced development. Afghanistan, which has suffered irreparable damage as a result of the destructive war, is aware of the experience and the aforementioned policies in various countries.

Attaching unprecedented importance to the principle of industry, specifically industries for which the raw materials are available within the country; to the enhancement of national and foreign trade; and to agriculture, husbandry, fruit-growing, and forestry, the Islamic State is trying to lower its reliance on food from abroad through the revival of agriculture and by relying on the mechanization of agriculture, with the ultimate goal of self- sufficiency in national and domestic agriculture and the agriculture industry.

A great responsibility rests on the shoulders of dear farmers and the Islamic State in this great struggle. The Islamic State of Afghanistan is ready for and has plans for the agriculture of the country. With the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture, it will begin a campaign to revive agriculture, to help farmers with their problems, and to take positive and great steps to improve the economic situation. The repair of roads between the capital and provinces and between provinces and smaller towns and rural areas and the restoration of the communications system as a whole will play an important role in the economic development of the country, based on agriculture.

With the help of God and the formidable will of the noble Afghan nation, the Islamic State's first step is to embark on the revival of the communications system, which will play a great role in the development of agriculture and the success of the work and plans of the farmers in the country, through cooperation with farmers. This will facilitate the transport of goods and food from villages to towns and vice versa. The Islamic State is inclined to cooperate with farmers in reclaiming areas that have been abandoned due to the imposed and destructive war, which covers a large section of the cultivatable land, and to prepare reliable conditions for the development of agriculture in the country. Together with farmers it wants to direct the country toward national self-sufficiency in the agricultural industry.

I hope that all of our people—especially farmers, fruit-growers, and livestock breeders—will pay serious attention, as a religious and national duty, during the revival of their land to planting trees and increasing livestock, resources which have been badly damaged during 14 years of war, and will once again prove their ability in national reconstruction, economic development, and national self-sufficiency. I wish to God on this auspicious day for a prosperous spring, tranquillity, and permanent peace for all farmers.

[Signed] Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

India

Spokesman Reacts to Pakistani Remarks on Blasts

BK0204100493 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0913 GMT 2 Apr 93

["Official spokesman's statement on March 30"]

[Text] In response to a query, the official spokesman stated that government has seen the statement made by the Pakistan's secretary general for foreign affairs yesterday. He has chosen to obfuscate the real issues. We regret the fact that he has referred in adverse terms to our leaders. Very specific information regarding certain members of the Memon family who travelled to Karachi has been communicated to the Government of Pakistan with a request for cooperation in apprehending and returning the suspects. We continue to seek Pakistan's cooperation and have noted that in Paragraph 20 of his speech the secretary general has referred to his government's readiness to persist in sincere efforts to cooperate in discovering the truth. We trust they will do so.

Bombay Police Commissioner Says 44 Arrested for Blasts

BK0204034493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] The Bombay police have arrested 14 suspects for their links with last month's bomb blasts in the city. The police commissioner, Mr. A.S. Samra, told newsmen that the arrested include one trained abroad in subversive activities. Some arms and ammunition were also recovered from them. The Bombay police have so far arrested 44 persons in connection with the explosions.

Visiting Mauritius President Holds Talks With Sharma

BK0204082293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] The president of Mauritius, Mr. Cassam Uteem, called on the president, Mr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, and Mrs. Bimla Sharma at Rashtrapati Bhavan today. During the half-hour meeting the two leaders had wide-ranging discussions on matters relating to cultural ties and expansion of economic relations between the two countries.

Mr. Uteem will have talks with the prime minister on bilateral, regional, and international issues. He will also meet the vice president, Mr. K.R. Narayanan.

Earlier, Mauritius president accompanied by a high-level delegation arrived in New Delhi on an eight-day official visit to India. He was given a ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan this morning.

Talking to newspersons, Mr. Uteem said India is the country of forefathers of the people of Mauritius. He will visit Bombay, Jaipur, Udayapur, and Bangalore.

No Radiation Hazard Reported From Atomic Plant Fire

BK0104161093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] A high-level inquiry has been ordered into the cause of yesterday's fire at the Narora atomic power station in Uttar Pradesh. The Atomic Energy Commission chairman, Dr. Chidambaram, has said the fire caused no radiation hazard to the plant personnel and the general public. The fire broke out in the steel turbine generator located outside the reactor building. It took five hours to extinguish the fire. A four-member team of experts from the Nuclear Power Corporation and the Bhabha Atomic Research Center is assessing the damage to the equipment and other materials. It has been asked to give an interim report on the cause of the accident within a week.

Deployment of UN Force During Internal Crisis Opposed

BK0104161493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] India has opposed the deployment of the United Nations peacekeeping force during an internal crisis in a member-nation. It has also stressed the need to exercise caution when only one member to an interstate dispute asks for stationing them on its territory. The Indian ambassador, Mr. T.P. Srinivasan, told the United Nations committee that it should be ensured that a request by one state for preventive deployment of UN peacekeepers on its territory does not become a cover for terrorist activities.

UN Military Observer Reportedly Attacked in Mirpur

BK0104154493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] A UN military observer, Captain (Degchikov Gualtiero) of Italy, was fired upon by Indian troops on the Line of Control in (Deva) area, Mirpur District. The UN observer was in the process of investigating a cease-fire violation and was duly carrying a white flag. Despite the precautions, he was engaged with light machine gun from Indian position. The observer, however, escaped unhurt.

Mourners Fired On in Srinagar; One Killed

BK0104163293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] In Srinagar, an eminent heart surgeon, Dr. A.A. Guru, has been killed by militants. According to an official spokesman, Dr. Guru was kidnapped by the militants yesterday and his body was recovered near the Soura Medical Institute this morning.

One person was killed and another injured in the gunshots fired during the funeral procession of Dr. Abdul Ahad Guru in Srinagar. The district administration had advised the mourners to take a particular route for the burial procession, but the mourners changed the route at the last moment. A section of the mourners tried to break the police cordon. In the melee, some shots were fired from close vicinity. Some people tried to snatch the weapons from the police. The police then fired a few shots in the air. Reports say Dr. Guru's killing is part of the gang rivalry which has been going on between different terrorist outfits. The outlawed Hizbul Mojahedin had accused the JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front] last week of abducting Jamaat-i-Islami leader, Syed Ali Shah Gilani, from Soura Hospital and later returning him there.

Indefinite Curfew in Ahmedabad Following Clashes

BK0204040093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] In Gujarat, an indefinite curfew has been imposed in Dahigaon of Ahmedabad District from last evening following group clashes. Police had to burst tear gas shells and fired some rounds to disperse violent mobs. The situation is now under control.

'Top Militant' Killed in Amritsar

BK0204035893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] In Punjab, a top militant Jagdar Singh, alias Jagah, was killed in an encounter with the security forces at village Bopa Rai in Amritsar District last night. One policeman was injured in the encounter. The Majitha police chief told our Chandigarh correspondent that Jagah was indulging in

terrorist activities since 1987 and was responsible for over 200 killings, including 20 policemen, and he was carrying a reward of 10 lakh rupees.

Militants Kill 8 in Manipur; Student Group Calls Strike

BK0204092693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] In Manipur, eight persons have been shot dead and one seriously injured by militants of the outlawed NSCN [Nationalist Socialist Council of Nagaland] in Senapati District. Police sources at Imphal told AIR [All India Radio] correspondent that last night the militants kidnapped the villagers belonging to a particular tribe and shot at point blank range near a water point. Security has been tightened in different parts of the state following threats by NSCN. An official spokesman said in Imphal that bus services between Imphal, Model Town, and Muri remained suspended in view of the threat.

Meanwhile, normal life has been affected in Manipur since this morning following a 36-hour bundh [strike] call given by the All Manipur Students Union. The bundh is in protest against what they call worsening academic atmosphere in the state, particularly in Manipur University. The high school examiniations scheduled for today and tomorrow have been postponed. In Imphal, shops, business establishments, and markets are closed and vehicles are off the road. However, attendance in the government offices is reported to be normal.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Views Progress, Current Issues

LD0104113393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0630 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Interview with President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani by an unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Mr. President, good day to you. Thank you for giving the Voice and Vision the opportunity to talk to you on this auspicious day. [passage omitted]

If you permit me, I shall ask my first question. Today is Islamic Republic Day. The most important slogan of our society has been and still is: Independence, Freedom and the Islamic Republic. Could you please tell us to what extent the Islamic Republic of Iran has been successful in realizing this slogan.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I, for my part, congratulate you and our dear compatriots on the occasion of the anniversary of Islamic Republic Day. It is good to assess and see to what extent the objectives that we put forward for our revolution have been fulfilled and to see where we stand.

The slogan that was chanted by the majority of the population—and was very catchy—was: Independence, Freedom, Islamic Republic. This was a good and comprehensive slogan. Our society was suffering from dependence upon the superpowers and from the lack of faith that was gnawing at our culture and religion. Repression prevailed, and people had no say in how to shape their destiny, except for a group of people who were making decisions.

Because of these difficulties, people had determined their goals. We really did need the meaning of this slogan to reform our society. Now we want to see what we have done. Have we fulfilled this slogan or not? I think that we should feel very satisfied and that our people should feel grateful with regard to the realization of this slogan.

Regarding independence: Well, independence has certain dimensions, and one cannot say that it is something specific that has been achieved. If you look at it from the political standpoint, our society has really become independent. I do not think that anyone could claim that we are not independent when it comes to our political decisions and the destiny of our country. Decisions are made internally. It is either the Majles that decides on matters concerning the Majles, or it is the government that decides. Or we benefit from the guidance of the leader and his holiness, Imam Khomeyni. There is no-one abroad to dictate to us and to tell us what we should do. There is no question about it, and even our most intransigent foreign enemies cannot claim that we are influenced by the will of others in our decisionmaking.

One of the dimensions of independence relates to issues concerning the country's needs—whether we have become independent or not. I should say that we are on the way to becoming independent and have not yet become fully independent. We still have some serious needs, and time is needed for us to be able to become independent. Of course, independence in the sense of complete non-dependence on anything from abroad is not a goal that anyone pursues. No country is independent in this sense. For instance, America, which has to import millions of barrels of oil on a daily basis to heat or cool the country, is dependent in this sense. Japan is also dependent in this way. Many needs in the world have to be secured collectively. Some countries have one thing; others have other things. There is a need for primary materials. The situation should be such that one should be able to secure these if one wishes. We have gone a long way along this path. I think that you will see what we have done to secure our essential needs domestically, once I provide you with the figures and statistics.

From the cultural, training, research, and labor power point of view, these differ too. We are not dependent from the cultural standpoint, because we have no need to benefit from the cultures of others. We believe that we

have the richest and most authentic of cultures. Further discussion of this can be left to another time.

As to training and labor power, I shall repeat that we are on the way. We have taken some long strides,and I shall provide you with the figures later. We do need to benefit from the world's advanced centers, however. Sciences does not belong to one country only. It is humankind's heritage, and efforts have to always be made to have access to the latest achievement. Developed countries are much more advanced in this area than the Third World, and we have to continue on our path.

In any case, what is certain is that we are on the road to achieving this goal. We have not been diverted, thanks to God. We have to work more and secure these goals in a lofty manner with long-term plans.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, one of the yardsticks for the stability of the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran has been the continuous participation of the people in various areas of the revolution. In what other areas do you see signs of this participation?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] You are right regarding this question. It is also partly related to the first question. The fact that the people are present on the stage to such an extent—in the elections and in the social issues concerning them—all this is a sign of independence and freedom. The fact that they take part in the elections and know that their votes are effective in electing the president, in electing Majles deputies, in indirectly electing the leader, and in practice electing all the pillars of society means that the people feel free.

The people have had very good participation in the defense area. In our defense efforts, we are indebted to the extensive participation of the people in the battlefields, either through their financial, political, and psychological support, or through human resources. Also, we always witness the presence of the people in all the disasters and incidents that occur in society, in floods, earthquakes, and in all other natural disasters. The assistance rendered by the people, even if it is not considerable in financial terms, warms the hearts of the officials and encourages them, in addition to being of assistance.

In security matters the people's participation is also noticeable. The deep-rooted security that exists in our country is due to the perceptive eyes of our people. They are present everywhere, and wherever they see a counter-revolutionary activity, either they sort it out themselves or they inform us and help us. We see that our people are really supportive in the security affairs of the country. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] In your remarks, you referred to cultural activities. With your permission, I wish to continue my questions regarding cultural issues. In your view, how successful is the Islamic Republic in the field of cultural and artistic activities, and what programs do you have for greater success in these fields? In view of the level of the activities that have been undertaken and are being undertaken by world arrogance to destroy the foundations of Islamic culture in Iran, please tell us the government's programs for safeguarding the genuine cultural identity of our country.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Yes, when one of our slogans was, in fact, Islamic Republic, we had identified our cultural framework in our slogan. Our culture is an Islamic and religious culture, in addition to its national aspect—which, because of the length of time Islam has been present in this country, is itself completely imbued with Islam. Before the revolution, this culture was truly in great danger. Of course, they stressed our national culture and were active in that field. However, they saw it to be in opposition to our religious culture, which was a mistake. This mistake itself was one of the reasons why the people distanced themselves from that regime. Our people do not view national issues separately from Islamic issues. They regard them to be exactly the same; especially now, when we have become the mother country of Islam. Our people are distinct in both areas.

In our first five-year Plan, we allocated a great share for our cultural issues. In practice, we even surpassed the plan. One reason why we surpassed it was due to the warning that was issued by the leader of the revolution in one of the first years, when he raised the issue of a cultural onslaught. That was a fact. We believe that our enemies know that the roots of this revolution are based in our culture, whether in our national or religious culture. They have targeted that and are trying to deprive us of it.

If they can sever people's link with their culture, then they have been successful in weakening the revolution, because they have taken away the main support of the revolution from us. Therefore, in practice, we paid greater attention to cultural issues than was indicated in the plan. [passage omitted]

Another important constructive factor in our culture is the Voice and Vision, both the Voice and the Vision. You, yourself, should give its facts and figures. I have, of course, brought with me figures on coverage and quantity, but it would be better for you to give the figures. We have had good growth in both Voice and Vision coverage in these years and in the programs produced. For example, production of programs by Voice has increased from 33,000 hours to 51,000 hours, according to figures they have given us. To the same extent, this applies to television, and to the same extent to the expansion of range. In my opinion it has been very effective in strengthening our culture and safeguarding our cultural integrity. [passage omitted]

Tourism is another factor in the transfer of culture, which we have fortified, so that our revenues from tourism have increased from 35 million dollars to 120 million dollars, and the number of tourists in the country has risen from 94,000 to 290,000. All this is the cultural work that has been done.

This year we have particularly concentrated on the matter of videos, because it was one of the destructive cultural factors. At the Cultural Revolution Council, we passed an approval to use religious and cultural centers, to set up video clubs, and to make healthy videos for all of society. We allocated a suitable budget for this. Of the budget that the Majles passed this year, a very large figure has been allocated to cultural affairs—which is 1 percent of the country's total budget—in addition to their current and development budget. This is a great step that could create a leap for cultural affairs next year, which is the last year of the plan.

Of course, the important point is to produce the content. Most of what I have just said has to do with form and wrapping. What we have to produce is the content. We are now pursuing the use of manpower. [as heard] I hope that this move will continue to safeguard our culture. [passage omitted]

On the fight against illiteracy, we are ahead of schedule by 7 percent. The illiterate were 74.4 percent of our population at the end of the year 71 [20 March 1993]. This figure is high. We were not making good progress in this fight, but by allocating bigger budgets we reached a stage where instead of 15.6 million illiterate people in 67 [1988-1989], this number is 11.2 million today. The figure has fallen, although our population has grown. That is 2 million illiterate people less than the forecast. [passage omitted] [figures as heard]

[Correspondent] Another part of our questions is about political issues. It seems that our country's performance in foreign policy has been satisfactory in the crisis-ridden world of today, which we all witness, and particularly in the tense region in which we live. The outcome of such a performance is the stability and tranquillity that exist in the country today. Please tell us what actions have led to this stability and tranquillity?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] It will take a very long time if we want to mention all the factors. I believe the most basic factor was the presence of people on the scenes, and the solidarity that exists between the officials and the people—the confidence that exists between the system and the masses of people. Those who look at our society from outside can see a solid society. Exerting pressure on this society will take the forms that you can currently see. It does not pay off for them to physically interfere.

Among our good experiences are the experience of the war—eight years of defense in a manner that proved to all that Iran is invulnerable and that it does not give in to physical pressure. They then gave up interfering. The then expediency of the Imam personally should be given prominence, as well as the present prudence of our leadership.

In any case, you see other revolutions. Afghanistan is one example, or the recently established countries that were formed following the collapse of the Soviet Union, and the issues currently under way in the Balkans. We had a revolution in Somalia, Sudan, and Ethiopia. The rest you are witnessing. They were usually managed in such a way that led to civil war, killings, and such things. Of course, those countries' backgrounds are perhaps different than ours. The revolution was managed in a satisfactory way in our country. The unity and solidarity of people was safeguarded. Our national territorial integrity was not damaged. There were troublesome groups that were either eliminated or weakened, and we should attach a great deal of importance to this.

One issue to which I attach much value and believe was an effective factor is our speedy action in transferring the country's affairs to the people. [passage omitted]

In any case, all the factors that led to the victory of the revolution, the clergy, the Imam, and the masses of people, are still on the scenes in various forms and with more experience. Of course, we should not forget the country's natural resources. If we did not have our oil and the foreign currency in our country, we would not have succeeded in various stages of the country's management of our country's mines, agriculture, and many other resources. You look at all of these factors, which were combined with prudent management—I do not say 100 percent ideal—but a management that could safeguard the country and foil plots through vigilance. I believe that the pillars of our system are becoming stronger and more solid as we go on.

[Correspondent] In general, world peace has been one of the needs of human communities, and they have always harbored fears regarding this need. In view of the Islamic Republic's policy in terms of defending a just world peace and supporting the oppressed, could you please explain to us the government's policy in terms of realizing that factor?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] If we succeed in establishing such a spirit in the world—and, well, the others will help too—that gives every individual in any country his rights, and remove the spirit of violation from the regional or world powers....[pauses] Cooperation is different from aggression. Even profitmaking is understandable. In any case, where there is world cooperation, then a country that has advanced industry, advanced science, or greater capital naturally makes a greater profit. And there is nothing wrong with that. There can be cooperation in the world if conditions of plundering, colonizing, bullying, and imposing particular opinions disappear. But once a bullying base is established in any part of the world, then discord, differences, antagonism, and small- and large-scale wars break out. The number of wars there have been over Palestine and the number of nations' resources that have been demolished—these are products of a bullying base. And such dangers exist wherever such events occur. We are trying to promote and proclaim this opinion, but I must admit that we have not been very successful. As you know, the world powers do not comply with our spirit, and they do not want to accept that. A large number of governments are engaged in creating blocs in the world. They are playing a part in creating these divisions, and they are linked or have

interests. They do not like our opinions. That is how we must act. We must try and set good examples for our neighbors in the region.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, in view of the constantly changing unions and pacts, the conditions in the world today warrant the urgent realization of unity in the Islamic world. In Your Excellency's opinion, what are the conditions necessary for the realization of that factor, and what should be done?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] This is one of the wishes that may be extremely difficult to realize. Promoters of unity in Islamic world have worked very hard to establish a Islamic identity in confronting other trends. At times in a region some countries have worked together, but these limited regional cooperations have also been disintegrated. For this cooperation to happen, I believe one should rely on the common features. It will not work if all Islamic sects try to totally impose their ideas on the others. We must rely on our common features and be content with our share, and we must do that wherever we are. A degree of cooperation is possible if we do not become idealists, but this total unity, total solidarity, and total cooperation is one of our wishes that will take a long time to be realized. God willing, it will be realized in better conditions and in better growth of public opinion.

[Correspondent] We are currently witnessing the formation of regional alliances such as the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] and the Caspian Sea Littoral States, and Iran is endeavoring to extend these. Could you tell us whether there are any projects concerning Asian unity.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] It is easier in smaller units because the issues relevant to them are more limited: for instance, trade and tariffs or electricity, gas, and oil lines are linked, or joint ventures are undertaken around the Caspian Sea, or in the Persian Gulf, or the Black Sea. These are easier to achieve. We should work on the easier undertakings before we tackle the big ones. As far as prospects in Asia are concerned, it seems that the Asian continent will become in the future one of the most important continents in the world both from the standpoint of natural resources, and also population and industry. [passage omitted] Advanced industries are growing there and the natural resources are plentiful. There is an extensive market, and we have all the ingredients for the making of a powerful bloc, which could be even more powerful than America, Europe, and Africa. The wave of awakening has also appeared—that is, serious attention is being paid to unity and cooperation in Asia. In the meetings we have with the world's political leaders, we see that they are taking this seriously, and I hope that in future years this can appear as a powerful lever in the world, especially since a majority of the soviets are Asian and they themselves said that they were an independent bloc in the past—a majority of them have a stake in this. For example, countries such as India, China, parts of the Soviet Union, Japan—these countries are very large in the region. And the resources found in Iran, in the Persian Gulf, and elsewhere, are very great.

[Correspondent] Having explained political and cultural issues, now please let us return to the first five-year plan and the government's performance. In view of the fact that the rapid growth in the country's population in the past 14 years has caused the growth of the population by over 20 million individuals, which is naturally one of the obstacles in the way of development, could you please inform us of the steps taken by the government in the past four years in terms of developing the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran in various spheres, or in other words, the government's performance in various spheres during the first five year plan.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Yes, the first five-year plan and the subsequent plans are aimed at the realization of that very objective of independence, freedom, and the Islamic Republic. We must consider the success of the plan in two dimensions: first in terms of the implementation of the plan, and next in how the principle of the plan could serve in realizing those objectives.

The plan has been drawn up in a relatively comprehensive manner; that is to say it encompasses cultural, educational, and also social objectives. Today, the appraisal of our performance has filled us with pride for the way we have implemented it. I can only point to various sectors. I will first give you a general outline and then I will cite an example in each sector. The plan itself is a very lengthy book and the reports on its implementation are even lengthier. Each minister should outline his own sector.

As for the generalities of the plan, the general parts of the plan are like this: For instance, one is on production, which is something that is related to all sectors; another is on the government's financial status; another is on expenditures; another on investments; and another on the economic indices.

Looking at production, we are in a good position; we are ahead of the plan's target. Our production growth, the GNP—or in other words, the country's wealth—has increased. Before the plan, because of the war and the conditions that were prevailing over the country, our production had decreased, that is to say we had no growth. It was natural that we were unable to. Growth began in 1368 [year beginning 21 March 1989-1990] with three percent, then rose the next year to 12.1 percent, in 1370 it was 9.9 percent, and we have not yet assessed the growth rate in 1371—it will be assessed around Ordibehest [month beginning 21 April], but it will be around the same. We believe that our average growth rate is 8.9 percent, in other words 8.9 percent per annum has been added to the country's wealth—in total, on average the wealth of each individual in the country has grown by that amount per annum. The plan had forecast an 8.1 percent growth. In other words, we are ahead of the plan by 0.8

percent after four years, and God willing, we will advance by the same amount next year.

Now, this is general. When we look at various sectors like agriculture, industry, oil, electricity, water, they all show different percentages. For example, in the agricultural sector, there has been a 6.6 percent average growth rate, while according to the plan it was supposed to have a 5.5 percent growth rate; thus we have been one percent ahead of the target, which is good. During our Majles debates on the plan, the majority believed that such forecasts were optimistic and that we will not achieve these statistics and figures. In the oil sector, which is again an important sector—I do not mention the annual growth rate, but give you the total—we have enjoyed a 9.3 percent growth, which more or less meets the plan's target. In the industrial sector, we have enjoyed a 12.5 percent growth per annum; the growth in that sector has been remarkable because we had unused capacities and had previously lacked the raw materials and spare parts, and factories worked more quickly.

Our growth rate in the water, electricity, and gas sectors, which are important in people's lives, has been average: it is 12.9 percent, while the plan stipulated a 7.6 percent growth. The reason for this position is the attention given to the harnessing of waters and consumption needs of the people in the electricity sector and also the great importance we have attached to gas in these past two or three years—I will discuss the gas sector later. Thus, there was a great increase in our growth rate.

In construction, in which we had a negative growth rate since the last days of the war, we have had an average growth rate of 7.6 percent. In terms of housing in 1369 we had 2.9 percent growth, in 1370 it was 8.8 percent, and 7.6 percent in 1371—this is an estimate since the real statistics have not been assessed yet, we have not assessed the average rate yet.

In the transportation sector, which constituted one of the country's problems at the start of the plan, one of our serious restrictions was transportation that had on many occasions been left idle in ports and faced serious problems. The provision of transportation was a difficult task. Our factories were not active and there was little foreign exchange for the purchase of trains, heavy machinery, and so on. We put a lot of work into it and achieved 11.1 percent growth. We are extremely pleased with that growth.

In total, with regard to that average I spoke about we are ahead of the plan. According to the plan we were supposed to have had an 8.1 percent growth and now we have 8.9 percent. As you know, production constitutes the basis of work in economics, and our growth in production in many sectors is ahead of the plan. Another of the good indices of a good plan is investment. Such growth may exist but there could be equal amounts of consumption, or the money could be left idle in banks or at homes. What is important is that these incomes must also be invested for the future of the country. Again, in terms of investment we have had good growth and are pleased. We are ahead of the plan. Well, it was natural that before the plan we had a negative trend and could not invest; the war conditions were not conducive. On average, in terms of investment we have enjoyed 12 percent in these four years, which is according to the plan. That was one of the objectives that they said would not be realized, because we [passage indistinct] the people have become attracted to investment and there is an eagerness to invest. So we must be pleased with the index in the investment sector.

Concerning consumption, there are two sectors: the public sector and the government sector. In the public sector consumption has gone up. On the one hand, it is a source of pleasure that the condition of people who had some difficulties in their lives has improved. However, on the whole, we should not be pleased with it. It is still a time for investment and prudence. Our growth, on average, has been 12.4 percent, or nearly twice the rate in the plan. [passage indistinct]

Until the year 1371, according to the plan, the government expenditure should have risen 3.1 percent per annum. However, the growth in government expenditure in fixed rates during the first four years of the plan has been only 1.9 percent. This is a very good thing that has happened in our administrative and executive branch, and we are very pleased with it. As a result of the growth in production, as a result of the reduction in the growth of expenditure, and as a result of the increase in government income, the financial situation of the government has become very good. It is so good that when the ordinary people of our country hear this, they try to find a fault; they say that there must be a fault somewhere. This is something that they cannot believe.

I will quote a few figures regarding the financial situation of the government. In the first plan it was envisaged that the relative size of all government expenditure compared with the gross domestic product [GDP] should be reduced from 19 percent, [corrects himself] from 19.4 percent, in the year 1367 to 17.8 percent in the year 1371. If we had succeeded in reducing government expenditure to 17.8 percent, it would have been a good situation. In the year 1367, government expenditure was 19.4 percent of the gross domestic product. However, we reduced it to 17.7 percent. In other words, it has been 0.1 percent better than the plan. In the year 1371, the relative size of government income compared to GDP was 16.3 percent, while in the plan it was stated that the government income should be 15.7 percent. The situation of our income has been 0.6 percent better than envisaged in the plan. One of the reasons for this has been the growth in taxation income. We have had a good situation in taxation income. We should continue this trend. Usually, rich people complain of the taxes that have been collected, but they should be satisfied. Even now our tax rate is not good on an international scale. Usually, other countries have a much better state of taxation compared to us. Because we have been reliant

upon oil income, we did not pay much attention to taxation; but that is a very unhealthy thing in an economy.

In the year 1367, the ratio of our tax income to GDP was 4.3 percent. In other words, we collected 4.3 percent from our GDP in taxes. In the year 1371, this ratio went up to 6.4 percent, this is a very good growth. It went up one and a half times. We expect this figure to reach 8.4 percent according to the program. We will be one of the countries that receives relatively good taxes if we reach this figure, not one of those that take high taxes.

Another indicator showing the good financial situation of the government is the budget deficit. We know that in 1367 the ratio of our budget deficit to our GDP was 9.5 percent. Well, we had a budget deficit of 9.5 percent from whatever our GDP was. According to the program, this figure should have reached 2.1 percent this year—that is 1371. If we had followed the program this figure for 1371 should have been 2.1 percent. Fortunately, the figure was 1.9 percent; so our budget deficit ratio to our GDP was below 2 percent. This year, in 1372, we do not have a budget deficit at all. Of course, certain pessimists say: This was transferred to state-owned companies. That is wrong. State-owned companies are independent economic bodies. They act similarly to private companies. If they have a deficit, they borrow from the banks, just like private companies. And they have to repay from their income. We should not include them in government statistics in this way. This is a good indicator.

Another indicator of the financial situation of the government, of the good performance of the government, in my view is the ratio of development expenditure. This is one of the important indicators of the nation. When we consider the total expenditure, the higher the percentage that is allocated to development, the better the financial situation of the government. We had predicted that this figure would rise from 19.4 percent in 1367 to 29.3 percent in 1371. So, in 1367 we spent 19.4 percent on development; in 1371 this should have reached 29.3 percent—fortunately the figure was 30 percent. That is, the development budget was increased by 0.7 percent. This figure is unprecedented over the past 27 years.

One of the specific issues concerning our financial situation is cash circulation [naqdinegi]. This has increased, and one of our problems is that we have increased cash in circulation in the private sector because the assistance given to industries and trade to make them flourish required that more money be in the hands of the people. In fact, because we acted a bit expansively in 1371, our industries are complaining and are saying not enough money has been given. Part of the inflation can be attributed to this excessive cash in circulation. We have not succeeded in controlling this cash in hand in the manner envisaged in the plan.

The government's financial situation as far as production, taxation, indicators of development expenditures, and budget deficiency, is very good. Expenditures have improved to some extent, but the situation concerning cash in circulation is not good, and we think we will still have this problem next year because of the currency adjustment—except that this time, the conduct of affairs will be faster because we give expensive currency and recoup it quickly from people.

These are the general points and then we come to the different sectors.

I have already commented and replied to your questions on the cultural and training sectors. I will not comment further on them. Our defense sector does not need to be discussed very much. Defense is an important issue for our country, and we are obliged to attend to it because of the circumstances we find ourselves in. We mostly rely on our domestic military industries, in which we are investing a lot. We also have no choice but to import a small amount of the things we cannot produce ourselves. Of course, those making propaganda against us allege that we are seeking to acquire nuclear or chemical weapons, or intercontinental missiles [mushakha-ye qareh-peyma] and other things. This is baseless and incorrect. Our military system has been designed to be defensive and not offensive, and we believe that our people have a legitimate right to defense. Of course, because we made our investment during the war it means that we do not have much need for it and it remains at the level of the figure we have announced.

As to judicial issues, we have raised the budget of the judicial system a lot, so that the officials in charge can have an active judicial system.

We have increased the judiciary's allocation from 43 billion rials in 1367 to 112 billion rials in 1371, which is a large growth. Of course, they have put it to good use and are making the system more active.

Our people are up to date with our foreign policy. We have succeeded in establishing our rights in international organizations. We proved that Iraq was the aggressor and that we were the aggrieved party in the war. We received a vote in acknowledgement of our rights. In the Gulf war against Iraq we adopted a stance that was admired by all the world. Our people know that.

We have brought back most of our POWs from Iraq. Unfortunately, the fate of a number of them is still unknown; they are either missing or we have their names but Iraq has not replied.

We solved the issue of hajj, which had become an issue for our nation. We are active in international organizations.

At the same time, we are under pressure from arrogant propaganda and attacks because of our just stances on Palestine, Bosnia, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Karabakh, and elsewhere.

In other sectors, in health and medical treatment, which is an important service, and the educational sector, we have credible indicators in view of the performance of the plan. The rate of infant mortality has been reduced

from 44.8 per 1,000 in 1367—which even then was a good figure compared with other third world countries—to 33 per 1,000, which is a satisfactory figure and the World Health Organization has approved of it.

The rate of the mortality of mothers due to pregnancy has been reduced from 90 per 100,000 to 40 per 100,000—and these are correct health figures. This has been a major achievement in the field of public health. The provision of healthy drinking water, especially in rural areas, has been increased from 70 percent in the year 1367 to 84 percent, which is a good figure. The number of hospital beds has been increased from 1.44 per thousand to 1.55 per thousand. We have enormously increased specialist and post- specialist capabilities in hospitals. You see that at the moment we send very few patients abroad. The cost of sending patients abroad has been greatly reduced, and there are few waiting lists for those who need hospital treatment.

We have taken major steps in social welfare. In the year 1367, 16 million people were covered by health insurance schemes. This figure has now exceeded 22.6 million people. In the year 1367, the number of those who were covered by social insurance schemes was 3.3 [number as received], which has now been increased to 4.8; which means we are 11 percent ahead of the targets of the plan. This shows our interest in the issues of deprivation and that is why we have put a great emphasis on these issues.

Out of all the families of the martyrs, POWs, and MIAs, and in general all the disabled and self-sacrificing people, at the beginning of the plan only 702,000 people were covered. Now, this figure has risen to 1.055 million. We are 31 percent ahead of the targets of the plan. Our vulnerable strata that were covered by social welfare was 3.7 million, but now 4 million are covered. For those under rehabilitation schemes [tavanbakhshi, normally refers to those who have received artificial limbs or special medical allowance] the figure of 150,000 has now been increased to 246,000 this year. This shows the attention that has been shown to the vulnerable sector. Here, let me also refer to the deprived areas. In the past four years we have spent large sums on the reconstruction of deprived areas and villages; and this is a source of pride for our system. Never in the history of Iran have we witnessed such a thing, and we hope to complete it in the second plan.

As to the different development and industrial sectors: As far as water is concerned, several dams have become operational in these past few years and 20 more dams are in the process of being built and will become functional by the end of the second plan. We are also conducting surveys on over 100 dams, which will cover almost all the country and will be implemented in future plans. We have harnessed 4.5 billion cubic meters of water during these years, which is being used for agricultural and urban purposes, and soon some big dams will be inaugurated and become operational and the public will be informed about these. We also completed 30 big urban water supply projects, and this was among the projects that cost us a lot. People should also be participating in this area. We have also prepared 868 million cubic meters of purified drinking water for urban consumption.

In agriculture, as we have already mentioned, there has been growth. We raised the production of wheat from 7 million tonnes in 1367 to 10.3 tonnes, which is 6 percent ahead of the goals of the plan. Rice has increased from 1.7 million tonnes to 2.5 million tonnes, which is 23 percent ahead of the plan. Sugar-beet—I am talking about essential goods here—has gone up from 4.45 million tonnes to reach 6 million tonnes, and this year our sugar factories cannot absorb this and we are obliged to limit production so that we may be able to equip our factories.

Meat production has increased from 525,000 tonnes to 625,000 tonnes. Chicken has increased from 300,000 tonnes to 520,000 tonnes, and egg production has risen from 250,000 tonnes to 390,000 tonnes. All these are ahead of the plan.

Fish, fish breeding, and fishing has seen an increase of 120,000 tonnes—from 237,000 to 357,000 tonnes.

The effect in the industrial sector is more tangible. Just as I mentioned, industry was better able to absorb because unused capacities and important factories are in the process of being built. The country's steel production has increased from 1.46 million tonnes in 1367 to 3.53 million tonnes this year. As to copper and aluminum—copper has increased from 50,000 tonnes to 110,000 tonnes and aluminum has increased from 28,000 tonnes to 74,000 tonnes in 1371. A new aluminum unit was opened and will raise our figure from 74,000 tonnes to over 100,000 tonnes. The Mobarakeh steel mill, in addition to securing steel sheets needed by the country, is also beginning to export steel sheets, which is a very good source of foreign exchange for us. Gold was almost non-existent in our industries, but we were able, for the first time, to have 500 kgs of gold produced from the Muteh gold mine this year, and we have, at the same time, acquired a good technical knowledge of how to increase the productivity of gold mines.

Esfahan's (Alumatic), which was inaugurated, was a great stride in our petrochemicals. The first phase of the petrochemical plant of Bandar Imam became operational and its capacity was good, and Arak will soon become operational.

Iron-ore, which is a strategic product in our country, increased from 1.805 million tonnes to 5.666 million tonnes with the arrival of Gol-e Gohar mine. This figure too will increase substantially soon. Copper concentrate has gone up from 165,000 tonnes to 341,000 tonnes. Coal has gone up from 758,000 tonnes to 973,000 tonnes.

God be praised, apart from providing the domestic needs, minerals are becoming export commodities.

In the commercial sector we are supported by our exports, which we have increased from 995 million dollars to 2.857 billion dollars. That is, we have increased our exports approximately three times. The export of non-oil goods is an important task. In any case, one day our non-oil exports and our imports should balance each other out and oil should not be involved in this.

In the oil sector, in the past we were not able to extract it because our oilfields were chiefly in the war-zone or near it. We spent large sums on the extraction and research work and thanks to the success of the Oil Ministry in that regard, we have managed to increase our oil production by significant figures at present. This year our production capacity will reach 4.5 million barrels a day. When we began our plan that figure was under three million barrels, and we were facing problems both domestically and in our exports. We were also producing in an unhealthy manner because we could not inject gas and we used to waste oil. We corrected our methods, and I believe that must have been one of the most valuable tasks achieved in our plan.

In refining, the Abadan Refinery has become active up to a point and it will become more active this year. The Arak Refinery will come into operation this year and we hope that by the end of this year we will no longer need to import oil products.

Our people of course know that we currently import 300,000 barrels of oil products [as heard] each day, which is very damaging for our country—to export crude oil and import its by- product. The difference in the prices is very high and on top of that we have to pay for transport. With the new oil refineries coming into operation we would almost no longer need to import oil products. There are some very minor products that we shall export products equal to them.

Motor oil has basically been an import commodity in our country; but we are now self-sufficient in this and we hope to be able to export this commodity in the future. We produce good quality motor oil in order not to waste resources.

Regarding gas I must admit that we have indeed carried out a huge task. The figures have been extremely pleasing and inspire pride. We have laid many pipelines in these four years. We have 2,370 km of main pipelines for the transfer of gas—that is to say from one city to another and so on. We have 14,000 km of provincial grid going through towns, and we have connected 900,000 extension lines in these four years. This initiative is growing day by day, because we have at present 145 towns which have joined the gas grid, and the number of towns is rapidly increasing. The number of subscribers grows as we go through each town. Gas is a very valuable product. We can see what happens when we consume a meter of gas instead of one liter of gas oil at home; looking at the price of one liter of gas oil in the world—well, we sell it at a cheap price, but the real price in the world is about 70-80 tomans, at which it is sold to the consumers in these very countries in our neighborhood; even the southern states which are endowed with so much, sell one meter of gas—the cost of which is one toman here, and we do not earn any more even when we export it, and it entails great expenditure.

On the one hand it is very effective for the environment, it is a means of comfort to the consumer, it is clean. We must improve our investment in that sector. At present we are largely reliant on banks for our investment. At present, the gas company borrows money from the bank instead of the government, and repays them from its own revenues, so as to also maintain self-sufficiency. We are continuing this policy. We have now discovered huge reserves of gas in the sea—in the southern Pars, and are trying to exploit those reserves, to purify that gas, to bring it into the country as well as exporting it. Wherever it is not in our interest to lay pipelines, we must use liquid gas, and for that thanks be to God, there has been investment and we have sufficient quantities in Bandar-e Imam, of which we are also exporting. We have met all the targets in our plan, regarding gas and also oil, and we are a little bit ahead. In addition we are providing our industries with gas.

We have supplied 360 factories with gas—they have massive fuel consumption. That is to say that in these four years we have supplied five power stations with gas. The power stations are astronomical. At present nearly one third of our gas—over one third—is consumed by power stations. If we do not supply them with gas they will have to consume either gas oil or mazut. That ruins the environment and is indeed costly.

In the field of electricity output, we have added 2,200 megawatts [mw] to the network during the past four years. A further 2,200 mw have been repaired. In other words, we have added 4,400 mw of electricity. When the first program started, the total electricity output of the country was 44 billion kilowatt hours [kwh]. Today the figure is 64 billion kwh, which is close to our consumption. If you see power cuts once in a while, this is because a certain power station comes out of the network or a power line is down somewhere due to snow, floods and storms. We should increase our output a bit and have a store to compensate in such circumstances. Of course, we want to rely on water power stations [hydroelectric systems] in the future. In our country we have the capacity to produce around 20,000 mw if we utilize all of them. This figure is one and a half times our present situation.

Water power stations are environmentally friendly, reliable and cheap. They require greater investment and gradually we are constructing large dams in the Karun, Karkheh, and other rivers. They should yield a large amount of hydroelectric power. [passage omitted] We did a great deal of work in the field of post and telecommunications. You see that there is almost no longer a black market for the telephone or it exists only in some areas. The post has expanded a great deal and it

has reached the villages. The financial post [post-e mali] was a new project that we implemented.

On the whole, these are some examples in the implementation of the first plan. As I mentioned in many cases we have been ahead of the plan. Some may ask why you have been ahead of the plan. I explained that once before. I mentioned that because we began our financial and monetary policies earlier and we sold more foreign currency at a higher open market or competitive rate and gained more rials and spent it where there was a need for it and God willing we hope to be able to complete the cases where we are behind with the plan.

[Correspondent] Yes. We thank you. You provided a relatively detailed explanation of the government performance and the plan. Now I take advantage of the situation and raise another question along the same lines. With regard to the fact that the final stages of the second five year plan are being drawn up, how does your excellency envisage the prospect of the country's development at the end of the second five year plan in various cultural, social, and economic fields?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We hope that the second program can solve the shortcomings in our lives and the limitations that exist in our economic independence—such as manpower. Fortunately, we are in coordination with the Majles. The Majles cooperates in formulating the second program. We have a good experience from the first program: we have understood the problems and obstacles facing our task; we have recognized our resources; we know our income. The fundamental difficulty that existed in the system—which was the multiple exchange rate that really tortured the economy and created corruption in distribution—was very dangerous. It also had bad cultural consequences. This has been removed today, fortunately. We are ready to formulate a more complete and solid second program.

Our aims [in the second program]: We want to make all the sectors that you mentioned before—you asked questions and I responded—independent and self-sufficient. There are some unfinished ventures that we want to finish; such as the Tehran metro. We have spent a lot of money on this. Tehran's transport problems should be saved by the metro; we will finish this and it will be active. Studies are being made in other larger cities.

Our administrative tasks: the Supreme Administrative Council is responsible for administrative reforms. We have started work on this. It is not enough but we have taken great steps during the past program—I have not mentioned this before. We must complete this; administrative reform is one of the important tasks of our second program. Fortunately, the Expediency Discernment Council can help us in the important tasks ahead. If there are knots in the constitution or other places, it can solve our problems. In the field of agriculture we hope to be able to achieve self-sufficiency in all of our foodstuffs, cereals in general and sugar and meat and all kinds of proteins, during the second plan so that we can do away with imports [of such goods]. [passage omitted saying that production of consumer goods was good and expressing hope that advances are made in other areas]

During the second five year plan we would like to concentrate our efforts on the railways, as in that field we are behind in comparison with many countries. Of course we also spend large sums to the railways. We intend to expand the country's railroads to the east of the country and to Pakistan by connecting them to the Zahedan railroads. In the north we intend to connect ourselves to our northern neighbors. We intend as much as possible to create two-way and electric railways, as railways provide a very satisfactory means of transport of passengers and cargo.

We intend to strengthen our air transport which is suitable for this day and age. In mines our system has been principally behind since long time ago, both in the discovery and exploration of mines and we have prepared ourselves in that regard. In exports we intend to achieve a complete balance by the end of the second plan. [passage omitted]

At sea we did not have a serious presence. Our naval industries were weak both in shipbuilding and naval structures, such as construction of platforms and underwater pipes and oil and gas refineries which we began this year. Thus far foreigners used to do such work for us and we intend to do it ourselves. [passage omitted]

Regarding internal trade, we hope to achieve balance. This will naturally lead to the control of prices and the like. Hopefully, people will have a choice and we will not interfere or supervise. The interference will hopefully be only physical to control [prices]. Of course, this year we will approve measures to control [prices] at this stage; but the principle is that supply and demand should decide in the country. [passage omitted]

UN Representative Claims U.S. Seeking 'Ransom'

LD0104204393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's representative at the UN called baseless and devoid of any value the comments made by the U.S. foreign secretary and described it as an effort to pressurize independent countries and mislead the world public opinion for its support for the Zionist regime. The permanent representative of Iran, yesterday releasing a press statement, has stressed that such false claims are aimed at stepping up anti-Iran propaganda and trying to extract a kind of ransom from Iran.

Opposition Figure on Regime, Terrorism

NC0204081793 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Interview with Dr. Sanobar Zahedi, secretary of the Iranian National Resistance Council and official in

charge of Arab affairs in the Mojahedin-E Khalq Organization, in Paris, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, within the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [al-Jundi] Let us begin by analyzing the Iranian policy that supports terrorism and instability in the Arab world.

[Zahedi] This policy of exporting terrorism and Khomeyni-style ideas to the Islamic and Arab countries in particular is not a new one for the mullahs' regime. It is a well-established policy that goes back a long way. Recently, the regime intensified these policies and plans and we are now facing a ferocious terrorist onslaught by the mullahs' regime. Recently, the mullahs' terrorism extended from Arab and Islamic countries as far as Europe and the United States. If we want to go back to the roots of this policy, we can see the regime facing worsening crises inside Iran, crises that cannot be resolved. They cannot be compared with past crises, which is why the regime is intensifying its efforts.

[Al-Jundi] Dr. Zahedi: Why is the ruling regime in Tehran targeting Egypt in particular? What does the Iranian regime want from Egypt?

[Zahedi] We all know Egypt's importance and standing in the Middle East. As the biggest and oldest Arab country, Egypt, with its culture, history, and population—around a third of the Arab population in general—is the regime's focus of attention. This is because the regime believes that if, let us suppose for argument's sake, it could control the Egyptian arena, it would mean it could control the entire region. To be more specific, if, God forbid, Egypt falls, the entire Middle East region will fall in the cycle of religious extremism, terrorism, and Khomeyni doctrine. This is why the mullahs target Egypt. Further, the Egyptian people are Muslims and believe in Islamic teachings. The regime wants to exploit this noble sense of religion, but it is our duty to explain to the brothers in Egypt and to the Egyptian people that the current regime in Iran, which Khomeyni established, has nothing to do with religion or Islam. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Official Resigns; 16 Parliamentarians Support Khan

BK0104140393 Karachi DAWN in English 1 Apr 93 pp 1, 9

[Text] Peshawar, March 31—In a dramatic move all the 16 MNAs [Members of the National Assembly] and Senators from Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), announced on Wednesday their unanimous support for President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, while Minister of State Haji Gulsher tendered his resignation from the cabinet.

Haji Gulsher termed his decision a step to show to the Prime Minister's camp that he had the courage to abandon his ministerial slot as a demonstration of support for the President, which he thought would not have been a proper thing while sitting in the cabinet of the Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

Addressing a joint news conference at the Peshawar Press Club, Malik Ajmal Khan Minister of State for Sports and Senator Malik Fareed Khan said the members from FATA had no political affiliations and hence they had no reservations regarding the ongoing tussle on the 8th Amendment or matters related to that. They, however, had come to the unanimous conclusion that they must support Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan if and when he chose to run for another term as President. They denied facing any sort of pressure from above in making their decision.

Malik Gulsher Afridi, Minister of State for Zakat and Ushr [tithes], said that he was resigning to be free to support the President. He said he had no knowledge of the extent of differences between the President and the Prime Minister and whatever he knew was based on press reports. If he was to vote for Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, the minister said, it would be against the will of Prime Minister and therefore it would not be proper for him to sit in his cabinet.

Senator Malik Fareed waved a paper in his hand, saying it was the resignation of the Minister of State which would be sent to the President. When asked Malik Ajmal Khan another FATA Minister of State, said he had not yet considered the question of retaining or abandoning the ministerial post but he would also have to take a decision at a later stage.

Malik Ajmal Khan did not rule out an in-house change of the government but he could not give any details. He said whenever such an option came up, a decision would accordingly be taken to support it or not.

Syed Yusaf Hussain, MNA from Kurram Agency, said the decision of the FATA members of parliament was a non-political one for they were of the considered view that no one was more suitable for the office of the President than Ghulam Ishaq Khan, who was the most qualified, experienced and serious man.

The FATA members of parliament emphatically denied that they were announcing their support for President at the behest of any one. They admitted that they had frequently been meeting the President and the governor during the last few days but these meetings had no bearing on their decision.

Earlier, the FATA members of parliament had had luncheon with Governor Gulistan Janjua at the Governor's House.

The FATA members of parliament did not agree with the suggestion that their decision to support President had anything to do with the Prime Minister the differences between him and or that their decision would further widen the gulf between the two.

Among others who attended the joint press conference were Haji Behroz Khan, MNA: Haji Ayub Afridi, MNA, Malik Aslam Khan, MNA, Malik Speergul Khan, MNA, Malik Sakhi Jan, MNA, and Syed Yusaf Hussain, MNA, Sen. Malik Fareedullah Khan, Senator Nouraber Afridi, Senator Abdul Wahid Khan and Senator Khayal Said Main.

More Resignations Expected

BK0204080393 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 2 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—More federal ministers are expected to resign following the stepping down of four cabinet members recently. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's inability to handle the present crisis has repertedly created panic in the federal cabinet.

In this regard names of four ministers are being taken. Jam Mashooq Ai, Saruar Assef Ahmed Ali and Malik Ajmal Khan are expected to be the first ones to submit their resignation. It is learnt that Jam Mashooq All has already sent his resignation to the President, with a message that President Ishaq could announce his resignation whenever he deems it fit.

Similary, it is also expected that Assef Ahmed Ali, who was expected to announce his resignation on Thursday, may quit the cabinet any time. In fact, on Thursday several ministers were seen inquiring about the resignation of minister from Okara.

The fourth minister who is likely to quit Mr Sharif's cabinet is Elahi Baksh Somro. Somro has made it clear that he would try his best to hammer out differences between the President and the Prime Minister but in case his efforts fail he will side with his old friend—President Ghulam Ishaq Khan," [quotation marks as published] a key federal minister told THE NEWS in confidence.

In a ralated development, President Ishaq is learnt to have started preparing "charge-sheet" against the Prime Minsiter and his some 28-month-old government.

Highly-paced sources revealed that in a meeting between the President and Chief Minister Sindh Syed Muzzaffar Ali Shah, who was specially flown in here on Thursday, alleged illegalities committed by the Nawaz administration were discussed. The chief minister is said to have handed over a letter to the President, reportedly containing reports of "illegal allotment of land" in Sindh. The provincial cheif believes that the allotment of land to Haris in his province was made without the approval of provincial government.

However, according to sources, Federal Minister for Information Abdul Sattar Laleka met the chief minister and tried to refrain him from submitting the report arguing that differences between the President and the Prime Minister would soon be resolved.

However cabinet sources say that Chief minister balochistan despite his differences with the present government would stand by the Prime minister.

Notwithstanding the panic and concern, several ministers are hopeful of resolving the crisis after the return of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who is on a tour of Germany. They, however, admit the present crisis is the worst that Mian Saheb has ever faced and needs special care in handling.

Majority of the ministers, it seems, are confused with the latest situation. They even seen asking journalists as to what would be the best option for them.

In Pakistan's political history, one observer said, Muslim Leaguers are known for "changing loyalties" and "cashing in."

Prime Minister Discusses Afghanistan, Bomb, India

AU0104172293 Munich SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG in German 1 Apr 93 p 11

[Interview with Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif by Wolfgang Koydl; place and date not given: "We Do Not Have the Bomb, And We Will Not Build It"]

[Text] [Koydl] There is hardly a country that has not been affected by the collapse of the Soviet Union, and Pakistan is no exception. How would you define Pakistan's new role in the region?

[Sharif] After the collapse of the former Soviet Union, substantial and qualitative changes have taken place in the region, particularly within the Russian Federation and regarding its foreign policy. For us, the most important element was the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan. Pakistan was one of the first countries to recognize diplomatically the Russian Federation. A gradual and steady change has taken place in Russia's position toward Pakistan. We are following this development and have thus started to revise our policy toward Russia. By the way, Moscow has positively assessed Pakistan's efforts for peace and stability in Afghanistan.

My government attaches great importance to the development of relations with the Russian Federation, and there have been several high-ranking visits from both sides. President Boris Yeltsin invited me to pay an official visit to Russia. I hope that the visit can take place this year. Despite its current economic difficulties and the loss of status as the second superpower, the Russian Federation remains a strategic factor. It will remain a powerful and important country, whose influence in our region will certainly grow. Pakistan's prestige and its role within the extended ECO (Economic Cooperation Organization, an agreement among Turkey, Iran, and Pakistan and the states in Central Asia—the editors), as well as the rapid establishment of close and friendly ties with the Central Asian republics are of particular importance for Russia, which, according to its own account, is

pursuing a well-balanced policy toward Pakistan in southern Asia. On the other hand, Russia's influence within the CIS remains an important factor for Pakistan regarding the promotion of its interests in western Asia.

[Koydl] Closer contacts to Central Asia require peace in Afghanistan, which lies between Pakistan and these countries. Are you optimistic that the recently negotiated peace agreement for Afghanistan will hold?

[Sharif] I agree that peace and stability in Afghanistan are decisive for establishing close contacts and economic cooperation between Pakistan and the Central Asian republics. This is of vital importance for any transit traffic via Pakistani harbors. The Afghan peace agreement is based on flexibility, rapprochement, and power sharing. It reflects the Afghan leaders' determination to restore peace and normal conditions in their country. I am optimistic that the agreement will pave the way for a peaceful political transition.

[Koydl] Several nations are trying to secure influence in Afghanistan, particularly Iran and Saudi Arabia. Do you consider these countries rivals or possible partners?

[Sharif] Saudi Arabia and Iran provided valuable support for concluding the peace agreement in Afghanistan. Special ambassadors of both countries were in Islamabad during the lengthy negotiations and were kept informed about developments. Saudi Arabia and Iran supported the Afghan jehad (against the USSR—the editors). They are our partners for the process of political transition in Afghanistan. Each of these countries may have its own view of developments in Afghanistan, but we do not regard either as a rival. It has always been our policy to coordinate our efforts with both states.

[Koydl] The United States used to be Pakistan's closest friend and ally, but recently the relationship has cooled somewhat. Who would you say is your country's closest friend today?

[Sharif] I would not say that relations with our closest friend and ally have cooled. It is true that the relationship became strained after the suspension of aid programs in October 1990. This step was taken because of differing views regarding our nuclear program. Yet we do not judge our friendship with other states under the aspect of aid that we receive. Our relationship is based on shared principles and objectives. Both countries are trying to restore the balance in our relations. There is continued and constructive dialogue, which has made a major contribution to a better U.S. understanding of Pakistan's position, according to which there should be a fair and balanced solution in the nuclear issue.

[Koydl] About your nuclear program: Pakistan's official position is that it neither has nor intends to build a nuclear bomb. On the other hand, it has been emphasized that Pakistan does, of course, not want to unilaterally dispense with "security options." Is this not a contradiction in itself?

[Sharif] We live in a situation of permanent tension between India and Pakistan. The reason for this tension is the Kashmir issue. So far India has not been able to settle this controversy. India does not want to settle this issue. Kashmir is the reason for constantly mounting tension between the two countries. At the same time, we are anxious to solve the nuclear issue through bilateral negotiations. I believe that the nuclear issue could be possibly solved once India manages to solve the Kashmir problem. Pakistan has unequivocally emphasized that it wants a nuclear weapons-free zone in southern Asia. It is not Pakistan that tested the bomb, but India, in 1974. It is also India, not Pakistan, that refuses to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Yet India should sign the treaty, which is why the international community should exert pressure on India. Pakistan's proposals have been supported by the United States, China, and Russia, but they were rejected by India. I think this clearly highlights Pakistan's intentions compared to India's.

[Koydl] Can one say that Pakistan does not want to build the bomb, but would be able to do so within a short time if the situation were to require it?

[Sharif] This is not what we are saying and we have no intention of doing it. We might be able to do so, but that does not mean that we will do it. We have not done it so far and we will not do it in the future, either. However, I think that one must now try to find out what India wants, which is why the international community must ask India: Please, tell us what are your intentions. Do you want to continue your nuclear activities or do you want to sign the nonproliferation treaty? Our intentions are very clear: We do not have any nuclear arms. Unfortunately, the history of the past 44 years has been very bad for us; there have been three wars with India and we never want a fourth one. However, this does not mean that Pakistan wants to continue to live in an atmosphere of tension with a threat above our heads.

Nine Arrested Libyans Under Interrogation

BK0204074593 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 2 Apr 93 p 12

[Text] Peshawar—The nine Libyans apprehended by the Peshawar Police on charges of their alleged involvement in criminal activities are presently being interrogated by the Special Branch of NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province] police.

They were handed over to the Joint Interrogation Team on March 30 in view of the complexity of the case. "They refused to divulge information and would often start interrogating us," informed a police official who initially investigated the case.

The case has attracted a lot of attention, especially in the Western media, in the wake of arrest of Arab suspects for their involvement in the World Trade Centre bomb explosion in New York. It has been alleged that Muslim activists, who took part in the Afghan jihad and were

based in Afghanistan and Pakistan, were involved in acts of terrorism in the US, Egypt, Algeria and elsewhere in the Arab countries.

It all began on March 10 when the Peshawar Police apprehended two Libyans and recovered a stolen vehicle from their possession. They were driving the vehicle, owned by an Afghan national, namely Majrouh, after having lifted it from outside the (?Spinzar) Plaza on Jamrud Road in Peshawar.

The two accused turned out to be a hard nut to crack. Claiming that they were Sudanese, the two lied while giving their names as Abdul Khaliq and Nooruddin. The latter said he was a motor mechanic hailing from Khartoum while Khaliq claimed to be a student of religion belonging to Omdarman. Khaliq also disclosed that he believed in "Takfir," which meant that he considered all those who didn't agree with them as nonbelievers.

As one police official recalled, he was reprimanded by one of the Libyans during interrogation and warned: "You are an American and, therefore, an infidel and I would see you." [as published]

Subsequent investigations showed that Khaliq's real name was Usman and that he had served as a pilot in the Libyan Air Force. He claimed to have deserted the air force. He and his colleague, Nooruddin, justified their car-lifting crime by arguing that the vehicle originally belonged to the French who were non-Muslims.

On March 27, the Peshawar Police during a routine checking near Gulbahar Police station arrested another five Libyans. Subsequently, two bags were found hidden in the car containing certain fake documents, office seals and seven Libyan, one Kuwaiti, one Yemeni, and one Pakistani passport. The cops also recovered US$1,000 and 98,000 Pakistani rupees from the Libyans.

It was with great difficulty that the police established the real names of the five accused as Abu Qasim Omar, Abdul Razzaq, Kamal, Saeed and Khalad. The accused lied about their names and nationality and insisted on referring to themselves by their nom de guerre. In fact, all had several such names, making identification difficult. The language barrier also complicated matters as only Kamal spoke some English.

Since Kamal insisted that he and Khala had been abducted by rest of the three Arabs, the police decided to raid Kamal's Gulbahar residence, which was locked from inside. Another Libyan, Mohammad son of Abu Huraita, holding a hand-grenade threatened the cops and ran away. He lobbed the grenade at the police when chased but in the process hurt himself and three Pakistani bypassers. The police subsequently seized a car parked nearby and recovered two more hand grenades from it.

The ninth Libyan was nabbed when police keeping a watch on Kamal's Gulbahar house saw him suspiciously roaming the place. He identified himself as Muftah Ahmad al-Ghamari from Yemen, though it soon trnaspired that he was Zaki and hailed from Libya. He had claimed that he was a teacher in Afghanistan and knew nothing about the Libyans in police captivity. Later, it was revealed that he had deserted his job in the Civil Aviation Authority in Libya and had been inspired by the Afghan jihad while studying in Canada. He subsequently fought in the Afghan mojahedin.

The Peshawar Police was later able to establish a link between the two Libyans arrested on March 10 and those apprehended subsequently. The documents seized from them pointed to the fact that they were known to each other and were all Libyans. The police charged them with stealing three vehicles—a coach from Pabbi, a Suzuki pick-up from the International Islamic Relief Organization orphanage in Hayatabad, and the vehicle owned by an Afghan, Majrouh. They were also charged under the 14 Foreigners Act, for attempted murder, and for illegal possession of explosives and weapons.

The policemen who interrogated the Libyans said they were surprised by their religious fanaticism. They carried small copies of the Holy Koran in their pocket and justified all their actions as Islamic. They also made it clear that they had no wish to return home to Libya. Most said they lived in Afghanistan's Logar and Khowst Provinces, a few said they were students, and one claimed be was exporting honey from Pakistan.

Ishaq Khan, Sharif Greet Chinese Vice President

BK0104164893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] The president and the prime minister have congratulated Mr. Rong Yiren on his reelection as vice president of China. In a message, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan expressed confidence that under his leadership, China would continue on its present course of economic development. It would also play a greater role in achieving the objectives of world peace and prosperity.

The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, in his message said the time-tested friendship between Pakistan and China, which served as a model of interstate relations, would be further consolidated. He expressed confidence that cooperation between the two countries at the international level would continue to positively contribute toward achieving international peace and stability.

Commission Establishes Outlines of EC Cooperation

BK0104162893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Pakistan and the European Commission have decided to set up a working group on commercial and economic cooperation. This decision was made at the end of the two-day Pakistan-EC joint commission meeting in Islamabad today. Both sides agreed that

business and economic cooperation can be established through commercial contacts and discussed ways to further promote these contacts. In this connection, they discussed a number of ways, including establishing an EC trade information center in Pakistan and a center to hold workshops for Pakistani exporters to enable them to reap the full benefit of the sole European Community market.

The joint commission reviewed the financial and technical assistance programs and expressed satisfaction over the pledge for a $68 million EC assistance in 1992, which is the largest ever such aid. Reiterating its pledge for assistance in the socioeconomic development of Pakistan, the EC expressed its desire to cooperate with Pakistan in the fields of human resource development and the environment. The joint commission also discussed the possibility of joint scientific resource programs in areas like water, the environment, irrigation, geophysics, oceanography, and pollution.

The EC decided to continue its assistance for welfare programs in Pakistan according to the situation prevailing in Afghanistan, in view of continuous pressure being exerted on the Pakistani economy due to the presence of Afghan refugees. The joint commission also discussed a strategy for cooperating in the fight against narcotics. It was agreed that the EC will continue its steps for rehabilitation measures and programs for mass awareness. The next meeting of the joint commission will be held in Brussels next year.

Minister Rejects Crossing of Line of Control

BK0204095193 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Sardar Mahtab Ahmad Khan, the federal minister for Kashmir affairs, says that the Pakistani Government will not allow anyone to cross the Line of Control [LOC] in Kashmir. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad yesterday, he said the Azad Kashmir government and relevant organizations have been alerted in view of the appeal by the People's Party of Azad Jammu and Kashmir to cross the LOC on 4 April. He advised the opposition leaders to understand the gravity of the situation and postpone their program. At the same time, he also appealed to the United Nations to fulfill its responsibilities to Kashmir, because the world body is also a party to this dispute. He said Pakistan is trying to check the Kashmiris from crossing the LOC. But, he asked, for how long will Pakistan be able to prevent them from doing so?

Paper Comments on U.S. Envoy's Remarks, Terrorism List

BK0204081593 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 2 Apr 93 p 6

[Editorial: "US Puts Pakistan on the 'Hit List'"]

[Text] Ray Pepper, Director USIS, arranged a palaver for his Ambassador with journalists which could have turned into a hot and saucy affair. But for the sweetness and light provided by "Rasho Malai" [sweets] (Ray must have brought the recipe from Dhaka, his last posting).

Ambassador Monjo was clearly under stress. Pakistan, being an open society, he had no problem getting information about what goes on in the country. His main worry was the reports he keeps getting about Pakistan's involvement in "terrorist" activities in Kashmir. These reports, he said, appeared to contradict the official claim that Pakistan was not providing any kind of assistance (overtly or covertly) to the freedom fighters in Kashmir. He explained the American law on "terrorism" and gave the impression that violation of human rights, even if it turns into brutal carnage was a matter of lesser concern to the Clinton Administration than "terrorism". Even the provision of food packets in a clandestine manner to the Kashmiris, who may be facing starvation and death in their struggle against Indian domination, could be seen as an act of "terrorism" according to this logic. The Ambassador did not explain what mechanism or procedure the US embassy follows to verify the reports they get from different sources. While Ambassador Monjo showed no inclinaton to be recognised as the "Viceroy of Pakistan", like one of his predecessors, he did seem to have a great deal of first-hand information about Pakistan's domestic problems. He gave a blunt enough indication that it was in Pakistan's interest to scrupulously abide by the American law on terrorism without explaining the force or validity of that law outside US juridiction.

It does seem a little odd that an American law should become applicable to other nations in addition to international conventions on the subject. The Americans are behaving as if they are in a position to impose their laws on other nations. They must regard themselves as custodians and policemen of the world who are under an obligation to carry out constant investigation into the conduct of other people. How has it become part of an Ambassador's duties to ascertain, through a host of paid and unpaid informers, whether any law prevailing in his country is being observed by the country to which he happens to be accredited.

Ambassador Monjo claimed that the US had no intention of interfering in the domestic affair of Pakistan though he did seem terribly well-informed about what goes on in this country. Those of us who have had the privilege of seeing the unclassified official documents in the National Archives, Washington, know the extent to which successive US Ambassadors have been involved in the domestic politics of Pakistan. These documents provide conclusive evidence that American Ambassadors habitually interfered in Pakistan's domestic politics and sought to provide guidance to our rulers even in such matters as their dealings with their political opponents. On several occasions the assessment of domestic developments provided by the American Ambassador to the State Department, on the basis of reports received from

highly reliable and highly placed sources, proved completely off-the-mark. We sincerely hope that Ambassador Monjo has detached himself from the long traditions of US involvement and interference in the internal affairs of Pakistan.

On the question of "terrorism" the Americans must know that their own record in this field is highly suspect. If providing covert assistance in any form to any group of dissidents in another country is an act of terrorism then the US could probably claim the top position among terrorist States. Who is providing covert (and overt) assistance to Israel to deprive the Palestinians of their self-determination? Has it ever occurred to the US that Israel continues to indulge in terrorism (whatever definition you might adopt) with US support? We are aware of President Clinton's commitment to human rights but that is not going to stop the US administration from providing covert and clandestine assistance to all such "terrorist" groups in Latin America as serve US interests.

The American Embassy in Pakistan appears to be inundated with complaints from the American Embassy in New Delhi about Pakistan's involvement in terrorist activities. They seem to be in possession of facts and figures showing the extent of covert military and material support provided by Pakistan to the freedom-fighters in Jammu and Kashmir. It is not difficult for the Indian government, with its vast network of intelligence agencies, to deliver a load of complaints to Ambassador Pickering in New Delhi and for him to transfer his burden, by diplomatic bag, to Islamabad. The two Ambassadors could occupy themselves far more profitably if they were to ask the Indian government to let them go to Occupied Kashmir so that they might see things for themselves and come to some rational judgement about the nature of the liberation struggle which is going on in the Valley. Such a visit would also enable them to get first-hand information about the kind of assistance the freedom-fighters are getting from Pakistan. They will know how they are daily cheated out of their wits (and funds) by their blabber-month informers.

It is quite absurd to go on talking about Pakistan's involvement in terrorist activities in Kashmir when the Americans cannot even persuade the government of India to allow any group of independent observers to visit Jammu and Kashmir. That would be the best way to verify the Indian claim that Kashmiris are not fighting for their liberation but are merely acting as agents of Pakistan in a pseudo-secessionist movement. Let the world press cover the events going on inside Jammu and Kashmir, as is happening in Bosnia, and the world will know the truth about the barbarities that are being committed by the Indian armed forces on the innocent people of Kashmir.

One remark which Ambassador Monjo made was a little startling. He said: "We don't recognise any one's sovereignty in Kashmir". Surely the Ambassador must recognise, as his government does, the sovereignty of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and their inalienable rights to self-determination.